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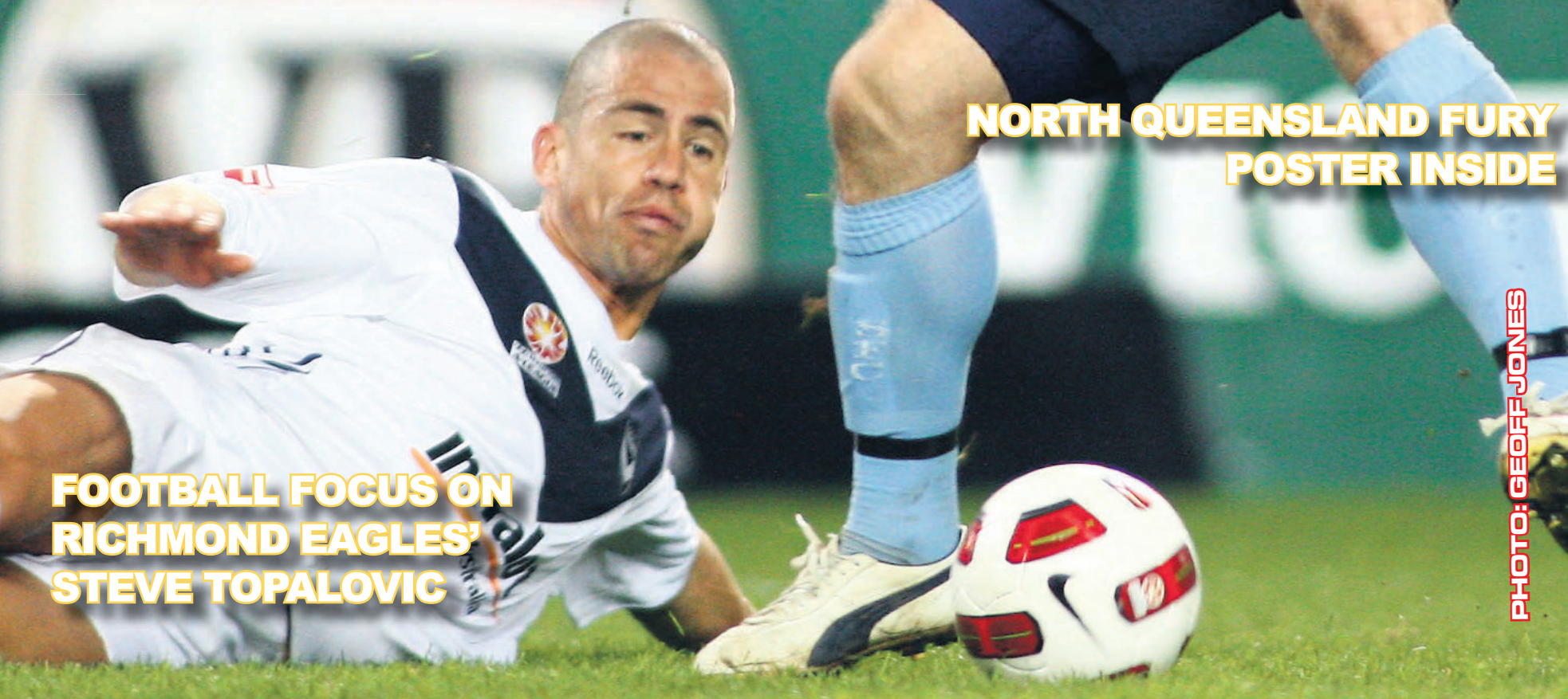
W e e k l y

Vol. 6 No. 25 Monday 9th August 2010

Still
\$4

IT'S SHOWTIME!

NEW A-LEAGUE SEASON STARTS WITH A BANG



NORTH QUEENSLAND FURY
POSTER INSIDE

FOOTBALL FOCUS ON
RICHMOND EAGLES'
STEVE TOPALOVIC

PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

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SCOREBOARD

TABLE		P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	CC Mariners FC	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
2	Melbourne Victory	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
3	Nth Queensland Fury	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
4	Perth Glory FC	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
5	Sydney FC	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1
6	Adelaide United FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
7	Brisbane Roar FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
8	Gold Coast United	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
9	Newcastle Jets FC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
10	Wellington Phoenix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Melbourne Heart FC	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

1 - Alex BROSQUE, Leigh BROX-HAM, Jacob BURNS, Billy CELESKI, Shannon COLE, Mate DUGANDZIC, Chris GROSSMAN, Terry MCFLYNN, Scott NEVILLE, Chris PAYNE, Mile STERJOVSKI, Alex WILKINSON, David WILLIAMS



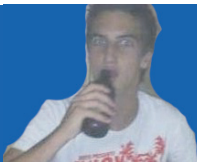
SFC's Shannon Cole


NEXT WEEK	Week 2	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEST
	Fri, 13 Aug 2010	Wellington Phoenix vs. Gold Coast United	Westpac Stadium	7:30pm	5:30pm
	Fri, 13 Aug 2010	Newcastle Jets vs. Melb Heart	EnergyAustralia Stdm	8:00pm	8:00pm
	Sat, 14 Aug 2010	North Queensland Fury vs. Sydney FC	Dairy Farmers Stdm	5:15pm	5:15pm
	Sat, 14 Aug 2010	Melbourne Victory vs. Perth Glory	AAMI Park	7:30pm	7:30pm
	Sun, 15 Aug 2010	Central Coast Mariners vs. Adelaide United	Bluetongue Stdm	3:00pm	3:00pm
	Weekend Break	Brisbane Roar			

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Round 02




JOHN CLARK'S KISS OF DEATH








After being the first team to be handed the bye this season the Wellington Phoenix will kick off their campaign on Friday night, hoping to continue the momentum of New Zealand football that has been growing over the past year. The Phoenix were exceptional at home last season and in fact only lost one game at their 'third' home ground FMG Stadium. The Gold Coast kicked off their campaign with an entertaining 0-0 draw with local rivals Brisbane Roar. Particularly impressive for the Gold Coast was ex-Melbourne and Wellington goalkeeper Glen Moss who joined the club in the pre-season after enduring a torrid year for the Victory. In the corresponding fixture last year the Gold Coast were embarrassed by the Phoenix eventually succumbing 6-0. While I think the Gold Coast will be right up there again this season, the Phoenix are my early tip for the title and I expect them to continue on where they left off at home last season.

Prediction:
Wellington 2-0 Gold Coast



The Newcastle Jets host Melbourne Heart on Friday night, with both teams hoping to get their first win on the board for the 2010/11 season. The Hearts inaugural A-League match finished in disappointment, after Central Coast defended captain Alex Wilkinson's early goal bravely. Despite having the lion share of possession and creating the better of the chances, the Heart lacked the killer touch to penetrate the Mariners resolute defending and will be sweating on the fitness of Captain Simon Colosimo. The Jets opened their season in Adelaide with a scoreless draw against the Reds. Branko Culina was impressed with his side's performance on a bitterly cold night in Adelaide and will hope defender Nikolai Topor-Stanley will be right to play after sustaining a knee injury in the first half. Hard to predict a winner here as both sides had there moments last week, Energy Australia Stadium had a habit of producing high scoring contests last season and I see that being the case here.

Prediction: 2-2






The North Queensland Fury showed last week that they won't be the A-League easy beats that everyone predicted this year. Trailing 3-2 with only seconds remaining, Chris Grossman nodded home to send the Fury away with a share of the spoils. It was a similar story in Sydney where the home team squandered a 2 goal advantage, but was saved by a scintillating free kick from the right boot of Shannon Cole. The last time these two sides met it was Sydney running out comprehensive 4-1 winners, but of the 11 players that started for the Fury that night only 3 remain in their squad. Although I think that the Fury will upset a lot of sides at home this season, I think Sydney's attacking trio of Bridge, Brosque and Carle will be a bit much to contain for the Fury's new look defence.

Prediction: North Queensland 1-2 Sydney FC



Two sides with similar tales of woe from the first round meet here in what will be the Victory's first professional match at their new home, Aami Park. Melbourne bravely fought back from a two goal deficit against Sydney last week to lead with five minutes left, before a Shannon Cole free kick drew Sydney level. The Glory also fought their way back to lead 3-2 before a controversial late free kick and Chris Grossman goal cost them the win. Despite going into the game against Sydney without a recognized striker the Victory were fantastic and an eight minute burst in which they scored three goals reminded the competition of why they will once again be a force to be reckoned with this season. Mate Dugandzic was exceptional up front for the Victory and improvement would be expected of experienced duo Kevin Muscat and Michael Petkovic, who would both be disappointed with there first up performances. The Victory dismantled the Glory in their only visit to Melbourne last season and while I expect this to be a lot closer I think the Victory will christen their new stadium with a win.

Prediction: Melbourne 1-0 Perth



The Central Coast Mariners remain the only team in the A-League to have registered a win after the first round of the season. They lead early on against the Melbourne Heart thanks to an Alex Wilkinson header and after that 'parked the bus' to stoutly defend their 1-0 lead. Matt Simon was particularly impressive in his new found mid-field role and if exciting Argentine Patricio Perez is passed fit to play the Mariners will be far more damaging going forward. It was the same old story for Adelaide on Friday night with the side creating enough chances, but still not being able to find the back of the net. Adelaide only managed nine goals on the road last season and this will be an area that new manager Rini Coolen will be hoping to address immediately if the Reds are to return to finals action. They will be helped in this area if Marcos Flores is passed fit to play after withdrawing late against the Jets. These two sides are renowned for their tight defence and I see this being a dour scrap.

Prediction: CCM 0-0 Adelaide



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News Room: 03 9551 7538
Advertising: 03 9551 7538
Email: news@goalweekly.com

Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

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Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
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Aritro Adebini, Nat Adamopoulos, Mark Boric, Bruce Darnell, Lee Galiardi, Russ Gibbs, Andrew Fisher, Roy Hay, Markian Jaworsky, George Katsamboukas, Eddie Krncevic, Jarrod Ellis, Francis Fields, John Fotinos, Matt Galea, Russ Gibbs, Bart Hulley, Adam Hussein, Peter Kathos, Jacob Kagi, John Kyrou, Sebastian Kipman, George Kouroumalis, Michael Liliakakis, Josip Loncaric, Craig MacKenzie, Alex Milic, Ashley Morrison, Adam North, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Kieran Pender, Walter Pless, Tony Persoglia, Leroy Robinson, Julius Ross, Roger Sleeman, Mike Salter, Luke Sheehan, Con Stamocostas, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Lachlan Taylor, Elias Simopoulos, Michal Skrodsky, Addy Wetzler, Bruno Zovko.

Photographers
Adam Butler, Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis, Dean Grant, Carlos Furtado, Geoff Jones, Peter Kakalias, Darryl Kennedy, Paul Lau, Lee McCormick, Mark McGeady, Brett McDonald, Anita Milas, Peter Psarros, John Punshon, Brett Robson, Steve Starek, George Stogiannou.

The A-League lives, long live the A-League!

By Con Stamocostas

Last week I wrote an article saying I was not so excited about this season's A League competition. Citing poor recruitment and adverting I was not impressed going into season six. Well I am an idiot and if I haven't said this before please don't pay attention to anything I say; it will make you a much happier and saner person.

The reason for my flip flop is that I was in the Cove during the Sydney FC Melbourne Victory game on Saturday night and along with the Perth Glory and North Queensland Fury match I have been left buzzing and salivating at the prospect of seeing more skills, goals and action from the likes of Nicky Carle, Mate Dugandzic and David Williams. What an opening round of A League football, and like a federal politician I have quickly changed my views. I have to be honest I have had a World Cup hangover. My eyes had turned into footballs and I was suffering from fatigue and football watching tiredness.

Mariners killing the A League's Heartbeat
No it wasn't the Melbourne Heart - Mariners fixture that got me excited. To me that game was a fizzer. Why must the Mariners open every A League season? It's like a comedian using his least funny joke to open his act. It's like your favourite band opening their set with an obscure cover. Graham Arnold was supposedly going to bring in all this change to the Central Coast. On Thursday night I saw more of the same old Mariners, they again will be hard working (but so are factory workers and Coles check out chicks and I ant paying too watch them, play football!). Mat Simon was used at attacking midfielder to thwart Heart playmaker Josip Skoko. It was a pure masterstroke and it smelled of Graham Arnold. I predict the Mariners campaign to peter out around January like it usually does.

And what of newcomers Melbourne Heart? On first glance their Dutch striker Sibon looks pretty good and they have a lot of experience in their side but to be honest I would rather watch a team like North Queensland Fury. The Heart seem to lack pace and Dutch import Rutger Worm what can you say he plays like his name. Brazilian import Alex Terra looked like he could do something but didn't. I would like to see more chances given to young players. It's only the first game, let's see what happens.

Mark Bosnich jumps on Oprah's Couch
The less said about the Adelaide United and Newcastle Jets fixture the better. Ouch that game was painful to watch except for Mark Bosnich claiming that two handed fists away by the keeper should only be used in times of emergency (he should know!). Also if Bosnich says "I never used a wall when I played for Manchester United" I will kill myself. It's getting really nauseating to hear stuff like that all the time. I know I



The champs are off the canvas after Shannon Cole's sweet free-kick at the death. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

know Mark Bosnich is Australian Football royalty and you can't criticize the King but it's time he was put on a leash. Why do your Heroes always end up disappointing you? Perhaps he's been Yoko Ono'd. Here are some choice quotes from a weird article he wrote for the Daily Terror leading up the Mariners-Heart clash. The ex Chelsea and Villa keeper suggested we watch all the other football codes and if you call Football Soccer it really doesn't matter because we all live in a magical fairy land where every sport can get along.

"THIS weekend I intend to watch as many footy codes as possible. I'll slip in to some tweed and leather patches for the second Bledisloe tie on TV at my (possible) future parents-in-law's house. Sunday it's off to the SCG to watch what should be a great game of rugby league - the code I first played as a kid - between the Dragons and Roosters.

"Although my girlfriend Sara might disagree, I can't think of a more perfect weekend.

"And that might come as a surprise to not only her but also the soccer extremists who think the round-ball game is the only code worth watching. I've always been uncomfortable with their conspiracy theories that the media has a hidden agenda to stop soccer from reaching the dominance it enjoys in other countries.

"While soccer is in the process of gaining widespread support, it is no problem at all to refer to the game as soccer to distinguish itself from other, more traditional codes because invariably a reference to "football" or "footballer" leads to confused looks all round when asking what sport one is involved with."

I liked Mark Bosnich better when he was single.

Thousand s flock to see God!
How good was it to see so many fans at a Perth Glory game again? For once nostalgia was outdone by the pres-



The Heart succumb to the Mariners. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

ent in Perth and even the sight of Jacob Burns trying to take out opposition players chunks of meat did not take away from a fast paced action game. North Queensland was great to watch. On first sighting the Fury have a better squad and manager than last year for sure. They have a smattering of young players that other A League clubs did not want and look to have brought in some good imports. I look forward to watching Payne, Cernack, Malik and Williams get more game time this year.

Perth on the other hand has a lot of old players but the impact of Fowler and the inventive play of Pelligrino and Scott Neville could make Perth a better team to watch than last year. Having over 16,000 fans cheering you on will help Perth relive the golden years.

Carleing and Mateship
What an amazing game of FOOTBALL between Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory on Saturday night. Try and watch as much footage of Nicky Carle's tricks and passes you can get. It was incredible

to watch. It looked like Nicky had unleashed the pressure off himself and others while trying to get picked for the Socceroos with a great debut performance for the Sky Blues. You could sense that two years of frustration at Crystal Palace were exorcised on the bumpy SFS pitch. Carle's choreography of passes, stepovers, feints and moves I don't even know the names of made me happy and angry at the same time. Happy I was seeing him in full flight and angry that the Socceroos cronies of Verbeek and Arnold had dismissed his talent so easily and deprived the Australian team and public of his unique skills. Ok Jesse Fink shut up!

And what about Victory attacker Mate Dugandzic? I'm sure Melbournians have known about this kid's talent for a while. A future Socceroo for sure, that is if the Croatians don't nab him first. And I just have to say Kevin Muscat I hate you but gees he plays the best Villain. Who will I love to hate that much when he retires?



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ADELAIDE UNITED



NEWCASTLE JETS



Match Details
Adelaide United FC 0
Newcastle Jets 0
Referee: Gerard Parsons
Crowd: 8,479 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

Adelaide United line-up:
1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 3.Nigel BOOGAARD, 4.Iain FYFE, 5.Daniel MULLEN, 6.CASSIO, 7.Lucas PAN-TELIS (c) (16.Inseob SHIN 85'), 8.Adam HUGHES, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 12.Paul REID (24.Cameron WATSON 85'), 17.Iain RAMSAY, 19.Mathew LECKIE

Substitutes not used: 15.Francesco MONTEROSSO, 20.Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
Yellow Cards: Leckie 43', Reid 44'
Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets line-up: 1.Ben KENNEDY (gk), 3.Adam D'APUZZO, 4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY (12. Jobe WHEELHOUSE 42'), 5.Ljubo MILICEVIC, 6.Ben KANTAROVSKI, 7.Kasey WEHRMAN, 8.Michael BRIDGES (c), 10.Ruben ZADKOVICH, 15.Sean ROONEY (14.Labinot HALITI 81'), 18.Marko JESIC, 19.Ali ABASS (16.Jeremy BROCKIE 71')

Substitutes not used: 30.Paul HENDERSON (gk)
Yellow Cards: Wehrman 75'
Red Cards: Nil

REDS TAKE POINT AGAINST JETS

By Dom Rinaldo
Adelaide United FC has played out a scoreless draw in its season opener against the Newcastle Jets on a chilly night at Hindmarsh Stadium.

While it was not a win, Reds Coach Rini Coolen remained positive after the match in his first Hyundai A-League outing in charge.

"I think it was a good open game. There weren't many scoring possibilities for both teams, I think we had a little bit more possession but we have to create more chances to score," Coolen said.

"The boys played well as a team. They worked really hard and I saw a few good things, but of course especially with a home game, you have to try to get more chances."

It was the first nil-all result between the teams in their 17 Hyundai A-League meetings and Coolen knows it is still early days as he continues to develop and implement his style.

"I think the draw was a fair result, but you have to win games, especially at home but it's a start, the defending was ok...and we didn't lose, that is positive, but we of course prefer to win the games," Coolen said.

"Of course we have to win more games, that's really important. We have to bring more speed into the game, and in the end you can play a lot of ball possession but you have to get more chances...and we have to work on that."

The Reds' preparations were disrupted before kick-off when Argentinean play-maker Marcos Flores was a late withdrawal with a leg injury from United's final training session yesterday, left winger Iain Ramsay promoted into the starting eleven.

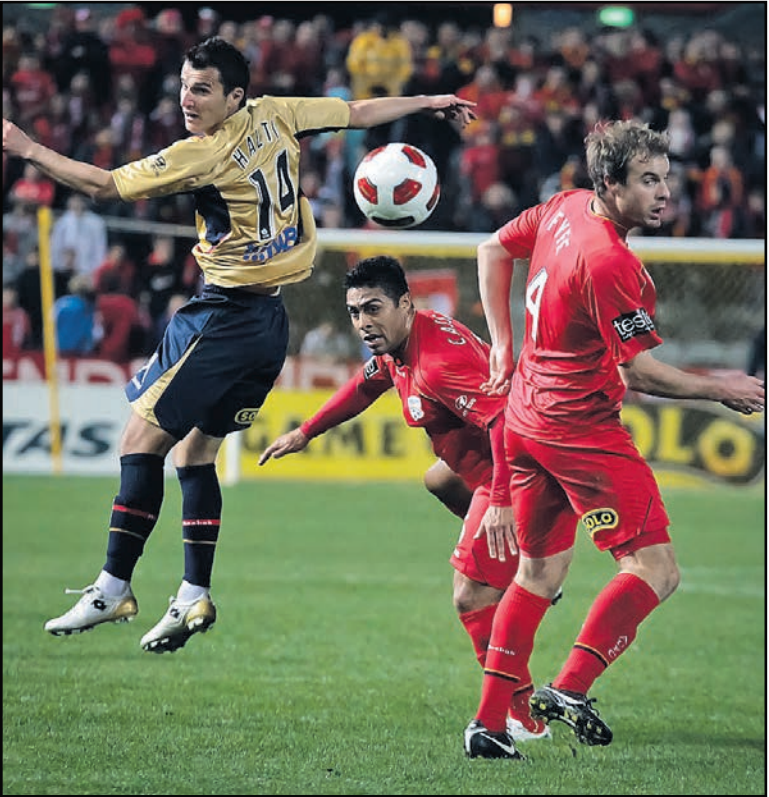
United found themselves under early pressure as the Jets had a number of early corners, the Reds were finding it tough to maintain possession in the middle of the park, as they tried to dissect a congested Newcastle midfield.

The first time either keeper was called into action came in the 19th minute when Eugene Galekovic was forced into a low save by an on target Adam D'Apuzzo shot.

Ramsay was lively on the left hand side, and while it was not for a lack of intent from both sides, the opening half



Goalmouth Round One action as Ruben Zadkovic (10) and Ben Kantarovski try to hold firm as Adelaide United's Daniel Mullen flings in for the header. PHOTO:ADAM BUTLER



All eyes on the ball as Newcastle's Labinot Haliti and Adelaide's Cassio and Iain Fyfe watch on. PHOTO:ADAM BUTLER

was barely one for the classics as both teams appeared rusty in their opening hit out.

The game sprung to life just before half time when a small melee broke out in the middle of the park, after a Paul Reid challenge on Kasey Wehrman that earned the Reds midfielder a caution.

After the interval, the match started to open up as both sides tried to force the issue, and in the 51st minute Jets skipper Michael Bridges thought he had given his side the lead in the 51st minute, but Galekovic had no problem making the save.

Struggling to combine in the front third, the Reds' best passage of play came in the 55th minute when Ramsay intercepted a stray square ball in the Jets defence, the chance ending with Leckie, but the youngster flashed his left footed shot narrowly over the bar.

Pantelis forced Kennedy into a save in the 58th minute as the Reds searched for an opening goal, and in the 68th the home fans thought they had broken through when Daniel Mullen put the ball into the back of an open net, but the preceding touch from van Dijk was disallowed with the Dutchman ruled offside.

Van Dijk's frustration summed up the night as both sides lacked fluency and a lethal finish in the attacking third, a



Adelaide's Nigel Boogaard smothers Labinot Haliti dart down the wing. PHOTO:ADAM BUTLER

stalemate arguably a fair result at the final whistle.

United must now prepare for a trip to Gosford to take on the Central Coast

Mariners next Sunday (15 August), the Mariners enjoying a 1-0 over Melbourne Heart in their season opener.

GOLD COAST UNITED



BRISBANE ROAR



Gold Coast United 0
Brisbane Roar 0
Sunday, 8 August, 2010
Skilled Park, Robina
Local kick-off: 3.00pm
Referee: Peter Green
Assistant referees: Denis Silk and Brad Hobson
Fourth official: Jarred Gillett
Crowd: 6,394

Gold Coast United line-up: 1.Glen MOSS (gk), 2.Steve PANTELIDIS (16.Kristian REES 32'), 3.Michael THWAITE, 5.ROBSON (21. Golgol MEBRAHTU 74'), 6.Dino DJULBIC, 9.Shane SMELTZ, 10.Jason CULINA (c), 13.Bas van den BRINK, 14.Joel PORTER, 15.Tahj MINNIECON (7.ZENON CARAVELLA 58'), 22.Adama TRAORE

Substitutes not used: 20.Scott HIGGINS (gk)
Yellow cards: Adama TRAORE 22', Steve PANTELIDIS 27', Bas van den BRINK 41', Kristian REES 90'.
Red cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar line-up: 1.Michael THEOKLITOS (gk), 2.Matt SMITH, 3.Luke DEVERE, 4.Shane STEFANUTTO, 5.Ivan FRANJIC, 6.Erik PAARTALU, 7.Kosta BARBOUSES, 8.Massimo MURDOCCA (17. Mitch NICHOLS 36'), 10.HENRIQUE (18. Luke BRATTAN 78'), 15.Matt McKay (c), 22.Thomas BROICH

Substitutes not used: 20.Andrew RED-MAYNE (gk), 23.Milan SUSAK
Yellow cards: Matt SMITH 82'
Red cards: Nil

Coast Hold Slick Roar To A Derby Draw

By Neil Favager

GOLD Coast United and Brisbane Roar played out a 0-0 draw at Skilled Park in the opening round of the 2010/11 Hyundai A-League season, but both sides will be rueing missed chances in a match that was there for the taking.

Roar had the better of it in the first period with United piling on the pressure in the closing stages as they searched for the single goal that would have provided all three points.

Both goalkeepers were the stars for the respective teams though, with United debutant Glen Moss turning in a man-of-the-match performance and the Roar's Michael Theoklitos denying Gold Coast on several occasions.

The two teams took time to settle early on with a Jason Culina corner for United and a Shane Stefanutto shot for the Roar the only goalmouth action in the opening minutes.

The match was struggling for rhythm and tempo but came to life as a few derby-style challenges punctuated the play. Traore and Pantelidis saw yellow for Gold Coast and on the half hour Miron Bleiberg withdrew Pantelidis with Kristian Rees coming on in his place and Michael Thwaite pushing into midfield.

Before Gold Coast's reshuffle could take effect the Roar came close to breaking the deadlock when Thomas Broich forced Glen Moss into an acrobatic save with a firm drive from just outside the box.

Goalless at the break but Roar enjoyed the bulk of possession in the

first period and started the second 45 minutes in much the same vein with Barbarouses shooting just over

But their failure to convert that possession into goals almost proved costly when Joel Porter broke free of his marker only to be thwarted by the onrushing Theoklitos, who saved with his legs as Porter pulled the trigger.

United threatened again soon after and Roar had Theoklitos to thank once more for a full-stretch save that denied Zenon Caravella's smart volley from the edge of the penalty area. From the resulting corner Theoklitos was called upon again, this time tipping over Joel Porter's header as Gold Coast gathered some momentum.

The Roar's Matt McKay had the best chance of the match but blazed over the bar with just over ten minutes remaining before Shane Smeltz watched his attempt sneak wide after a great cross from United skipper Jason Culina.

Gold Coast United Head Coach Miron Bleiberg was honest in his summary of his side's performance, despite sterling last 20 minutes.

"We didn't play well today but on the positive side we didn't concede a goal and we didn't lose the game," he said.

"Credit to the Roar, they passed the ball well and were well organised. Perhaps we were a little over confident but we did improve a lot in the second half after making a few adjustments during the break.

"We had a few opportunities as well so in the end it was probably a fair result. I think Roar will be pleased with the result, especially after last season, but we go away knowing we can do a lot better – and we will."




The Roar get ready for the season proper. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE




Coast's Joel Porter tries to stay on his feet. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Gold Coast United's Dino Djulbic heads clear from the pack as the Brisbane Roar pile on the pressure. PHOTO: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



MELBOURNE HEART



CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

0

1

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 0
Central Coast Mariners 1
(Wilkinson 16')

Melbourne Heart: 1. Clint BOLT-
TON (gk), 2. Michael MARRONE,
4. Simon COLOSIMO, 5. Michael
BEAUCHAMP, 6. Matt THOMPSON,
7. Rutger WORM (24. Aziz BEHICH
58'), 9. Gerald SIBON, 11. Alex
TERRA, 20. Josip SKOKO (19. Eli BA-
BALJ 68'), 22. Nicholas KALMAR (3.
Brendan HAMMILL 73'), 23. Dean
HEFFERNAN.

Subs Not Used: 12. Peter ZOIS (gk).

Yellow Cards: Heffernan 72', Ham-
mil 83'
Red Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Jess VAN-
STRATTAN (gk), 2. Daniel McBREEN
(9. Nik MRDJA 90+2'), 4. Pedj BOJIC,
5. Brad PORTER, 6. Patrick ZWAAN-
SWIJK, 7. John HUTCHINSON,
11. Oliver BOZANIC, 14. Michael
McGLINCHEY, 18. Alex WILKINSON
(c), 19. Matt SIMON, 23. Adam
KVASNIK (8. Rostyn GRIFFITHS 68').

Subs Not Used: 20. Mathew RYAN
(gk), 12. Matthew LEWIS.

Yellow Cards: Bojic 1', Hutchinson
36'
Red Cards: Nil

Referee: Chris BEATH
Crowd: 11,050 at AAMI Park,
Melbourne



Matt Simon keeps a tabs on Josip Skoko.
PHOTO: Daniel Flis

Hearty debut by league’s newest son

By Roy Hay

The A-League’s newest team, Mel-
bourne Heart, kicked off its career
with a single goal defeat to Central
Coast Mariners at AAMI Stadium
on Thursday night.

The game started with a bang as Pedj
Bojic probably set an A-League record
by getting himself booked inside 30 sec-
onds.

The early moments were promising for
the Heart as they passed the ball freely
through the first two-thirds of the pitch.
The Mariners were more direct and
won a corner after 13 minutes and Alex
Wilkinson got on the end of Michael
McGlinchey’s cross. But Heart did
not learn the lesson and Mariners got a
simple goal with a similar effort three
minutes later. Wilkinson broke free of his
marker at the back post to meet a corner
by John Hutchinson and his header flew
past Clint Bolton.

Mariners’ coach Graham Arnold ad-
mitted that part of his game plan was to
target Josip Skoko, the former Socceroo
midfielder.

Matt Simon got the job and his con-
sistent pressure reduced the influence
of the Heart playmaker very consider-
ably. Skoko had some excellent passes
but committed a couple of fouls and was
lucky to escape without a caution.

A hip injury led to his replacement in
the second half.

Having got an early goal the Mariners
defended in numbers relying on quick
breaks by Daniel McBreen, Michael
McGlinchey and Adam Kwasnik.

Heart had some good spells of pressure
but the final cutting edge was lacking.



Alex Wilkinson gate crashes the Heart party with his 16th minute
winner. PHOTO: Sydney Low

Matt Thompson came galloping down
the left and found Gerald Sibon, but the
big Dutch striker turned like a supertank-
er and shot wide.

Rutger Worm had been suffering from a
virus and perhaps should not have started
and was below par in his play.

He was replaced by the nippy former
Victory player Aziz Behich, who turned

three men in an instant but also fired past
the post.

Towards the end even keeper Clint Bol-
ton came up for the final flurry but Heart
could not get the equaliser it desperately
sought.

The A-League did Heart no favours with
its opening game on a cold, drier Thurs-
day night against a workmanlike team

Skoko the target

By Roy Hay

Geelong’s Josip Skoko got a taste of
what he has let himself in for in his
first senior match in Australia since his
North Geelong Premier League days,
when he turned out for Melbourne Heart
on Thursday night.

Central Coast Mariners and former Socceroo
coach Graham Arnold said quite explicitly that
his strategy last night was to target the midfield
playmaker using Matt Simon as a close mark-
ing tagger—a Cameron Ling in soccer.

The play worked very largely as Skoko’s con-
tribution to the game was limited to 60 minutes
and he found it hard to open up the play as he
normally does.

Some of the early exchanges were very tough
indeed and Skoko responded with a couple of
tackles of his own, one of which nearly resulted
in a caution.

Referee Chris Beath showed great understand-
ing by telling the midfielder that repetition
would lead to retribution, while he booked John
Hutchinson of the Mariners for another rough
challenge on Skoko.

After the match, heart skipper Simon Colosimo
responded to the notion that Skoko was being
targeted by saying that professional players had
to be able to cope with the physical side of the
game and then be able to play football.

Heart coach, John Van’t Schip pointed out
that Skoko suffered a hip injury early in the
game and that he was not yet up to full match
fitness as he several other members of the squad
had only been in collective training for the last
three weeks.

These points are valid, but the recent World

Cup showed that while Australian players
could match their peers in commitment, physi-
cal and mental, they were still deficient in
technique compared with the top sides.

So if we wish to be fully competitive we
must not make it impossible for the skilled
mentors of the domestic A-League to perform
without spending 90 minutes considering their
own safety.

Recent imports, like the little Brazilian Jun-
inho, have argued that they were put under such
physical pressure that they were unable to show
their skills and hence their performances were
devalued in the minds of the watching public.

This is not a plea for the A-League to become
a league of wusses, but rather a concern that
coaches, players and referees have to strike a
balance which allows the gifted players to do
what they do best and entertain the public with
skill.

The Heart fans showed a keen appreciation of
that last night, even criticising their own players
when they felt that tackles went over the top.

We now have a generation of football support-
ers in Australia who are fully familiar with the
highest standards in the game and expectations
have risen accordingly.

They will not be content with just a kick and
rush game in which players are intimidated by
the enforcers or coaches who put results above
all other considerations.

Van’t Schip has made in clear that his aim is
to develop a modern style of play for the Mel-
bourne Heart and Josip Skoko is an integral part
of that plan.

It is vital that his effective contribution to this
raising of the general standard of play in Aus-
tralia is not undermined by those who just want
to stop him playing.



Simon Colosimo and John Hutchinson clash. PHOTO: Daniel Flis



The stakes are high as Heart keeper Clint Bolton goes up for a
corner late in the game. PHOTO: Sydney Low

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PERTH GLORY



3

NSQ FURY



3

Match Details

Perth Glory 3 (Jelic 5, Neville 74, Sterjovski 79)
North Queensland Fury 3 (Payne 34, Williams 64, Grossman 90)
Crowd: 16,019 at nib Stadium

Perth Glory 3-3 North Queensland Fury (Half-time 1-1)
nib Stadium, Perth
Friday, 6 August, 2010
Local kick-off: 8.00pm (10.00pm AEST)
Referee: Kevin Docherty

Perth Glory: 1. Tando VELAPHI, 3. Jamie COYNE, 5. Jamie HARNWELL, 7. Jacob BURNS (c), 9. Robbie FOWLER (22. Anthony SKORICH 82'), 11. Branko JELIC (17. Todd HOWARTH 71'), 12. Scott NEVILLE, 14. Steven McGARRY, 16. Adriano PELLEGRINO, 19. Naum SEKULOVSKI, 21. Mile STERJOVSKI,

Substitutes not used: 20. Aleks VRTESKI, 23. Andrija JUKIC.

Scorers: Jelic 5', Neville 74', Sterjovski 79'

Yellow cards: Burns 23', Sterjovski 29', Sekulovski 65'

North Queensland Fury: 1. Justin PASFIELD (gk), 4. Eric AKOTO, 5. Mark HUGHES, 7. Gareth EDDS (c), 8. Adam CASEY (21. Jason SPAGNUOLO 83'), 11. David WILLIAMS, 14. Chris GROSSMAN, 15. Chris PAYNE (10. Dyron DAAL 76'), 16. Simon STOREY, 17. Osama MALIK, 19. Isaka CERNAK

Substitutes not used: 18. Brett STUDMAN, 20. Matthew HAM (gk),

Scorers: Payne 34', Williams 64', Grossman 92'

Yellow cards: Akoto 23', Storey 33', Hughes 45' (+2)

Fury Spoils Glory's Party

By Jacob Kagi

Perth Glory blew an injury time lead to suffer a disappointing 3-3 draw to North Queensland Fury in its first match of the season.

Glory came back from 2-1 down in the second half to take a 3-2 lead, which it held into stoppage time, but Chris Grossman got a late goal to earn a draw for his side.

Marquee signing Robbie Fowler helped bring in a massive crowd against his former club, but couldn't do enough to stop new Fury coach Franz Straka getting an encouraging point in his first game.

Perth is yet to win in the opening round in the A-League and coach Dave Mitchell will be under pressure this week after a performance well below expectations. Just five minutes in, Glory took the lead from a neat move from a throw-in.

Scott Neville's throw on the right side found Adriano Pellegrino through Steven McGarry, with the winger's cross finding Branko Jelic unmarked in the six-yard box as he tapped in.

Fury nearly got one back in the 21st minute when Perth 'keeper Tando Velaphi was unable to hang onto a corner in his six-yard box, having to take several grabs at it before it was finally cleared away from the waiting attackers.

The visitors continued to look promising after that and got reward in the 33rd minute, when a quick counter-attack saw David Williams find Chris Payne on the edge of the box, before Payne fired into the bottom corner to level the scores.

Young right-back Scott Neville was one of Glory's best players and he was unlucky not to put the home side ahead in the 52nd minute, when he cut in on a run down the right and found some space from 20 yards out, but his fierce shot hit the crossbar.

After 60 minutes, Fowler played through Mile Sterjovski and the Australian marquee player should have given Perth the lead, but his poor effort on the break with just the 'keeper to beat went just wide but never looked like going in. Sterjovski was made to regret his



The Fury celebrate David Williams' goal which silenced the sell-out crowd as the visitors went up 2-1.

blunder just three minutes later when Fury caught Glory on the counter.

Payne and Williams connected again, with the former Sydney FC striker's cross finding the young attacker, who volleyed on his left from 15 yards out over Velaphi to give North Queensland a 2-1 lead.

Neville got the reward his performance deserved in the 73rd minute when a corner was only partially cleared to him 20 yards out, before he struck on the right past Justin Passfield into the bottom corner, arguably a shot Passfield should've saved.

It looked like Glory had come from behind to get its first win of the season just five minutes later when Sterjovski made up for his earlier mistake after Pellegrino's cross found him unmarked in the six-yard box and his header from a tough angle found the goal.

Fowler was substituted after a somewhat frustrating performance in the 83rd minute, with Glory looking to bring on some fresh legs to protect its lead.

It didn't work however, with Fury pinching a point through Grossman

after 91 minutes.

With Passfield up, Williams' free-kick from a few yards in from the corner flag found Grossman unmarked on a strong run at the near post, where he headed past Velaphi, who came out to claim the cross but didn't even get close to it.

Mitchell said he was upset with the way the game had gone.

"It's really disappointing for us. It feels like a loss," he said.

"After going 2-1 down we dug deep and got back into a winning position.

"But then we conceded a goal, so it's very disappointing."

Fury assistant coach Stuart McLaren said his side should have got more from the game.

"Obviously I'm happy we managed to snatch it back. But we should never have been in that position in the first place," he said.

"It's just a little bit frustrating for us that we were in that situation chasing the equaliser."

Perth faces a tough challenge to bounce back next week with it away to Melbourne Victory, while North Queensland host Sydney.

PLAYER RATINGS

Glory –
Velaphi: 4 – Should have made a better effort on the first goal and at fault for the third. May find himself under pressure.
Neville: 8 – Clearly Perth's best player, with much of its good attacking play centred around his runs from right-back.
Coyne: 6 – Heavily criticised by Glory's fans but wasn't as bad as some are making out.
Harnwell: 5 – Played most of the pre-season up front and it's clear he's out of touch defensively.
Sekulovski: 6 – A solid performance, with some nice defensive play and good runs, but gave the ball away too much.
Pellegrino: 7 – Worked well with Neville on the right side and was dangerous with his good runs and crossing.
McGarry: 6 – Not his best effort, but didn't look too bad either.
Burns: 6 – Still isn't producing at the level Glory want him to, but was far from its worst.
Sterjovski: 7 – Should've given Perth a 2-1 lead early in the second half but was excellent apart from that.
Jelic: 7 – Worked hard and got an early goal in a good effort. May be too similar to Fowler for that combination to work regularly.
Fowler: 6 – Not at his best but had some good moments too.
Howarth: 5 – Couldn't work his way into the game in his 20 minutes.
Skorich: 5 – Barely seen in a cameo role.

Fury:
Passfield: 5 – Could've done better on Neville's shot and looked stupid after running to celebrate Fury's second goal in front of Perth's fans when Glory took the lead a few minutes later.
Grossman: 7 – Limited Glory's effectiveness on Fury's right and got the tying goal.
Hughes: 6 – Not Fury's worst, but couldn't have done more in central defence.
Akoto: 7 – Showed his strength and determination in an impressive performance.
Storey: 5 – Looked out of his depth battling against Neville and Pellegrino.
Casey: 7 – Involved in some of North Queensland's best moves and worked hard all game.
Edds: 7 – Very impressive in central midfield.
Malik: 6 – Quite an encouraging, hard-working performance from him.
Cernak: 8 – Arguably Fury's best, a constant danger going forward for the visitors.
Williams: 7 – Although he had a couple of bad moments, also had some great ones and it looked like Glory didn't know how to defend him at times.
Payne: 7 – A consistent threat who linked well with Williams. Fury might be better off if those two played closer together.
Daal: 6 – Involved quite heavily in his cameo role but looked awkward on the ball.
Spagnuolo: 5 – Was surprising he didn't start but did little after coming on in the 84th minute.

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Steve Topalovic

Richmond Eagles FC



PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

FULL NAME: Steven Topalovic
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne
BIRTH DATE: 08/05/1990
HEIGHT: 186cm
WEIGHT: 84kg
MARRIED: Dating
CAR: Ford Falcon AU XR6
NICKNAME: Topa
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Dandenong city, Gold Coast United (youth)
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: none
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Robert Prosinecki, Fernando Redondo
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Luka Modric
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Michael Thwaite
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Winning the Youth League Grand Final with Gold Coast in front of my home crowd and Etihad.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia versus Uruguay in Sydney to qualify for the 2006 World Cup
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: I don't really score many... Probably the last goal I scored my childhood club Dandenong City against Cranbourne
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Playing in my first match for Doveton under 6's
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Would have to be the penalty goal that wasn't against Green Gully this year.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: If Richmond don't win the VPL this year
WORST INJURY: Nothing too serious so far, so fingers crossed
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Isaka Cernak gave me a tough time last year against Brisbane Roar, so for now I would have to say him.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Knights Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: None
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Anything home cooked. It doesn't really bother me to be honest.
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: My fitness and my strength
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Decision making in the final third. And if you ask Tommy Milardovic it would be that I take too many touches.
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Dinamo Zagreb, Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Tennis, Boxing
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Goran Ivanisevic
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pork schnitzel, Vanilla Le rice snack
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Shia LeBeouf, Mark Walberg, Scarlet Johansson
HOBBIES: Water Sports (jet ski, water ski)
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Anywhere along the Croatian Coast
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Tfu, Boutique, Wheelers Pub
IDEAL DATE: My Girlfriend
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Simpson, Everybody loves Raymond, 2 and a Half Men.
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Progressive house, Trance, alternative Rock
FAVOURITE FILM: Gone in 60seconds, Night at the Roxbury
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: My parents bought me back a Dinamo Zagreb Shirt from Overseas
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I was earning \$80,000 and year at Gold Coast playing for the youth
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Father. And my Brother in Law, Ivi
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Tommy Milardovic's winging during matches
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play professionally
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Diego Maradona
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Melbourne Victory
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: RICHMOND!



KAT'S CORNER

Manchester Cup 2010
Sydney's Sutherland Sharks U15's won the right to represent Australia in this prestigious event, and have created history in this tournament currently being played in Carrington, UK.

Sutherland became the first Australian or New Zealand team to win a match at this prestigious tournament which consists of 20 top class teams from around the world.

Over 9,000 teams started the journey from all around the world in the quest to qualify for the most prestigious under 15 tournament in the world. Look at some the calibre of the teams competing: Manchester United, Barcelona, Porto , Torino, PSG , Werder Bremen, Colo Colo just to name a few. I'm sure club scouts from around Europe will be there in droves . Good luck to our boys and I'm sure the experience would be invaluable in the years to come.

The final is between Barcelona FC and Mexican champions Pachura FC, fittingly in the 'Theatre of Dreams', at Manchester United's home ground of

Old Trafford.

GO LOCAL
The Football Federation Victoria has appointed a new Technical Director, New Zealander Sean Douglas.

I appreciate all of Sean's credentials and that he played for Carlton and New Zealand in the NSL , but I ask myself, out of all the Victorian players that have represented Australia and played in the NSL, were none worthy for consideration to the post? I would like to see the list of applicants and I just hope this was not another appointment of convenience.

Sean I wish you well, but they say "The restructure was required so FFV could provide the necessary services to be able to implement the National Curriculum ". Well, well, the new national curriculum wants coaches to implement skill and technique into our players, but I can't remember Sean Douglas being or having the philosophy of that type of player. Sorry, but please correct me if I'm wrong.

What is wrong with Victorian former

players Alan Davidson , Oscar Crino, Micky Petersen , Paul Trimboli, Branko Milosevic? People who in my view are more suited to the role.

Please take note, if we are ever going to produce better technical players you must have coaches that believe and understand the mentality of a skillful and technically gifted player.

The appointment of the right coaches is crucial in the development of Aussie football. Until we do as such we are only kidding ourselves.

Sydney FC v Melbourne victory
What a game! I was impressed by the general play, but both defences need to improve.

Their concentration was naïve. But, overall it was a great game. Nick Carle of Sydney FC showed glimpses of brilliance and I'm sure in the weeks to come when he gets really fit people will be scratching their heads and asking why he isn't picked for the Socceroos more often.

The more I think about it, the more it really irritates me, because as a footballer ,when you know you are good

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com



Sydney FC must be commended for the brilliant gesture of presenting all former NSW Socceroos with a membership to the club. PHOTO: GEOFF JONES

enough and some other forces work against you, it can be most frustrating. I hate that!

Talking to fellow Socceroos amongst us on the night the name of Ognosovski came up, and we all agreed he was another player that should have been selected on his playing ability. I would have him in my team any day. Food for thought? Do the best players always play ? See you next week.

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



JUDGEMENT DAYS
What a big week it's going to be this week, where...

Mark And Co from the Ex House of Darebin will give a new meaning to the term "Double Bubble", as they get their best Pin Stripe Suits ready, and dust of their Leather Compendiums.

Seems that his Legal Eagle's will have their hands full with a number of very interesting cases.

Let's take things from the Top.

South Melbourne have gone to the Supreme Court and asked them to step in with their recent loss of 6 points, the outcome on Tuesday will not only set a Precedent for other Clubs in the future, it will also have a bearing on who makes the Final's this year.

Then once Mark and Co recover from Tuesday, they will back up for a Wednesday Night Hearing at the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, where the Dandenong Thunder Vs Northcote City case will be heard, regarding the outcome of their recent Match where the Lights went out with Northcote leading 4-1.

This outcome will also have a bearing on who makes the Finals Series.

However, a word of advice to Club

powerbrokers who have, or are close to making a booking for the Westgate at Season's End, a little man wearing a fluoro vest on my trip there today, as I was doing a dry run for Seasons end, told me to stop and turn back, as chances are, no Club Powerbroker will be making this historic and character building trip. Stay Tuned!

Greens v Blues
Hopefully third time lucky for the Bentleigh Greens Vs Northcote City fixture, as Aretha Franklin has already belted out her classic 'I Can't Stand the Rain' on the 2 attempts that they have tried to play this Game.

However, it will be played this Wednesday Night at the Bulleen Veneto Club, which has an artificial Surface, unless some other act of God takes place. Kick Off is at 8.30pm.

DOUBLE TROUBLE
Another first for Victorian Soccer took place this week, with South Melbourne Custodian Peter Zois sitting on the bench for the Melbourne Heart in the A-League on Wednesday Night, for their inaugural Match in the A-

League, then backing up for South Melbourne in the Premier League on Friday night against the Oakleigh Canons

Believe or not, it took place, my J Walker affected Brain is still trying to come to grips as to how and why this can happen.

To put it into perspective, it's like a Player in England turning out for a Championship Side, then an EPL Club 2 days later. I am sure we will hear more about this one.

The moral to the story for all of the above though is that the Game here in Victoria is riddled with Inconsistencies and has been structured in such a way that Tribunal Hearings, Court appearances, and controversies are the order of the Day.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but you don't hear about these things in other Sporting Codes in Victoria, or Soccer in general in the other States.

So why does it happen here? Once again, I will leave that one up to you.

Whilst we are on the Subject of the Melbourne Heart, I tried watching 10 minutes of their First Game against 'Goal A Game' Arnie's Central Coast Mariners,

however quickly gave up as what I witnessed was very similar to the quality that I produced in my 700 Games, where State 3 Ressies was the highest level that I played.

Hopefully the other 80 Minutes were a touch better, otherwise....

INGING FOR IT
Last but not least, our Mailbag last week was full of Punters complaining about some of the colourful language used by the Bulleen Lions Assistant Coach in his recent interview after one of their Games, where he warned his players to keep away from certain 'ings'.

Now so as the Mailbag does not fill up once again, I cannot mention the 'ings' that he was concerned about, in 'ing' language, I can however describe the things that his players need to avoid are J Walker Sessions, and searches for Happy Ends.

Lucky I don't play for Bulleen!

This is Katsa, just as you've known him. And remember, avoiding 'ings' makes one's life very very dull!



Third time lucky? The Greens and Northcote get to go at it again at the Veneto club this Wednesday at 8.30pm



TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

POMMY NAZI FC

The history of the Beautiful Game has not always been so resplendent. Behind the glossy image of football lies a history of coercion, corruption and manipulation by three of the most powerful leaders of the 20th Century.

For a country which has shouldered a weight of footballing shame in its time, it ranks as one of England's darkest moments in the sport.

The venue: Berlin's Olympic Stadium; the date: 14 May 1938. As the English players lined up alongside their German counterparts for pre-match ceremonies captain Eddie Hapgood and his men issued a Nazi salute to the crowd.

The gesture provoked outrage in the British press, and was seen as all the more galling since Hitler was not even present at the time.

But England's presence in Germany on that day was less about sport than politics.

The policy of appeasement towards the Nazis pursued by Neville Chamberlain's government at the time had been intentionally transposed to the football pitch.

It was a Foreign Office order that the England team, which included the legendary Stanley Matthews, perform the salute.

The underlying message was calculated to be that Germany, which two months earlier had annexed Austria, was not a pariah state.

The friendly game effectively helped clear the way for Chamberlain's "Peace in our Time" deal with Hitler, which, in turn, led to Germany's invasion of Czechoslovakia.

That England won the game 6-3, was something of a footnote, says Ulrich Linder, author of *Strikers for Hitler*.

"To lose to England at the time was nothing unusual because basically everybody lost to [them] at the time. For Hitler the propaganda effect of that game was more important than anything else."

While the Fuhrer's casting of the 1936 Berlin Olympics as a showcase for Nazism is well documented, the lesser known ties between fascism and football in the same era were not out there on show.

Europe's right-wing dictatorships pounced on the working man's sport as a means of drumming up support for their politics. Fascism and Football were a marriagae made in hell.

Ironically, one thing Hitler, Mussolini in Italy and Franco in Spain all shared before reaching the top was an indifference to the sport.

But their rise to power in the 1930s



Mussolini appeals for an offside...

was mirrored by football's ascent at the same time as an international sport.

PRIMA DONUTS

By the time of the first World Cup in 1930, football was recognised as a sport around which national identities could be moulded and manipulated.

"Propaganda in football works because everybody can see that when I say I am the winner, it is true, I win," says Pierre Lanfranchi, of the European Institute of Sports History.

First off the blocks was Mussolini, who colonised the game as a means of shoring up support for his fascist regime.

He seized on Italy's hosting of the 1934 World Cup as a showcase for the re-birth of Italian power, drawing on the athletic imagery of the Roman Empire.

But although Italy was a strong team at the time, its victory in the World Cup could not be assured. So it seems Mussolini, who dubbed himself Il Duce - the leader - set about fixing the tournament.

At times, Italy appeared to have more sway than the official organiser, FIFA. Mussolini dictated which referees would oversee each match, and once on the field their behaviour immediately led to talk of corruption.

MR. INCORRUPTIBLE

The referees of two Italy matches were suspended by their home countries because of the poor standard of their officiating.

In Italy's semi-final against Austria, the referee actually headed the ball to an Italian player. The same referee was drafted for the final and invited alone to meet Il Duce before the match. During the game the Italians' aggressive style of play went unpunished and the home team eventually won 2-1.

Yet not everyone was corruptible. After Austria's annexation, Germany abolished the superior Austrian team and used its players to bolster its own side. But Austria's star player Matthias Sindelar refused to go along with the plan.

Not only that but in the two teams' final match before integration, Sindelar humiliated the Nazis by scoring one of two winning goals against Germany.

Within a year, Sindelar was dead, aged 35. A Gestapo file marked him out as pro-Jewish and a social democrat.

There has always been suspicion about the nature of his death - Sindelar, who had become a symbol of Austrian patriotism, died in his girlfriends' apartment from carbon monoxide poisoning. Some believed he had been killed, others assumed he committed suicide.

His death was recorded as an "accident", but the reason for this has re-

mained a mystery until now. Egon Ulbrich, a lifelong friend of the forward, revealed to the BBC documentary makers how a local official was bribed to record his death as an accident, thereby ensuring he would receive a state funeral.

"According to the Nazi rules, a person who had been murdered or who has committed suicide cannot be given a grave of honour. So we had to do something to ensure that the criminal element involved in his death was removed," says Mr Ulbrich.

Within a year, Europe's rivalries switched from the football field to the battlefield.

AROUND IL GLOBO

In **Italy, it's not just about the rich, Industrial North vs. the Agricultural, poor South or about Berlusconi', the Italian Prime Minister owning AC Milan and AC Milan's vice president, Adriano Galliani being President of the Italian Football League.**

No, politics in Italian football is far more entrenched than that. It's about the masses, their cultural education and their ideologies. In that same magazine article, there was a map of Italy, showing the different clubs in the Italian first division, according to their political tendencies.

The fact is, that in Italy, every club has a fan base that tends towards a particular political stance. In and of itself, this is simply a curiosity and there is nothing alarming about it or even unique.

In Spain, Real Madrid fans and Barcelona fans are politically opposed, and in England some clubs are traditionally supported by the relatively higher echelons of society and others by the working class. The same is true in France.

Italy's problem is the disturbing manifestation of some extreme ideas in football stadiums. In the last few weeks alone, several incidents have occurred that show just how poisoned the air around Serie A is becoming.

On the weekend of December 10th, 2005, the fixture list read Livorno vs. Lazio. This is by no means one of Serie A's more glamorous games but the political undertones made it one of the most explosive matches that the season saw.

Lazio, or perhaps it is more accurate to say, Lazio fans are known for their extreme right wing beliefs. Livorno fans are situated on the other extreme, far to the left. As is the trend in Italy, each of these sides has an emblematic player, a bandiera, as the Italians say. For Livorno this is Christiano Lucarelli and for Lazio it is Paolo Di Canio.

I'm going to focus on Di Canio because he is the protagonist of this particular anecdote but also to try and pro-

vide a window into what he represents to the club's fans. They adore him because he espouses the same extremist beliefs as they do and makes no bones about it. They see themselves reflected in him.

As a kid he watched Lazio from the North Curve of the Olympic Stadium, the same curve that Lazio fans today watch him from. When he returned to Italy, after several years in England, he took a massive pay cut in order to play for the team he supported as a boy. He's been faithful to Lazio and the club's fans are faithful to him.

Di Canio upon being substituted tured towards the Lazio fans and executed a fascist salute.

Oh, wait., my bad. He calls it a Roman salute. And while the gesture may have its roots in ancient Rome, Di Canio knows full well what it stands for now, given the events of the 20th century, and more to the point, given his own political beliefs.

What's worse is that this isn't the first time Di Canio has pulled the stunt this year. He did the same thing during the Rome derby in January. Now, Francesco Totti is as Roman as Di Canio but you don't see the AS Roma captain going around executing fascist salutes. On that occasion, Di Canio was fined 10,000 euros and that was the end of it.

There was something else shocking about the Livorno v Lazio match, on par with Di Canio's gesture. In the stands, the Lazio fans had managed to bring in with them, all sorts of banners and flags sporting fascist symbols and a couple of Swastikas as well. I'm sorry, but what century are we in?

It is a question of re-educating an entire population, telling young kids that idolize football players, what is and is not acceptable and putting all the resources possible towards eradicating the phenomena. It is not an easy task and to be honest, I have no idea what the best way is for the Italian Football League to go about it.

What I do know is that it's a shame to see Italian football, which is some of the best qualify soccer on offer in the world, with some of the game's greatest talents making up its history and its present, suffering from such a malaise. Italian journalists often talk about "calcio malato" or sick football. Let's hope that now that the diagnosis has been made, a cure can be found.

*A Verbis ad Verbera
Abusus Non Tollit Usum
Absum!*
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BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



Where does one begin? Football followers are normally looking at the league tables in the papers to see which teams are in line for finals or relegation, but now it seems we have to check out the Law Lists as well as the action moves off the pitch and into the courtroom.

The farce will become even greater should South Melbourne manage to get the Supreme Court to force the FFV into giving them their deducted points back. It will lead to a scenario where a club which brought about the abandonment of a fixture will face less sanction than those who didn't pay for a table on Gold Medal Night or a settle a fee for a fine on time. Which would be a massive joke. It would be interesting to see someone justify the punishments against St Albans Saints last year as well in the light of any points deductions being rescinded.

If the Court does find that the FFV have not applied rules correctly, surely there will be a few at the former House of Darebin that will have to fall on their swords? Had it happened after the legal stoush KO from Whittlesea Zebras last year, would we be in the position now?

Speaking of jokes, Rutger Worm did well to get 11,000 people to burst into laughter at the same time in the Melbourne Heart season opener against Central Coast Mariners. The Melbourne International Comedy Festival struggles to bring out bigger hits than that.

Back to the shambles that is the FFV, who would be booked by any referee for time-wasting with the way they have gone about announcing any determination on the "lights out" game between Dandenong Thunder and Northcote City. It's a building of tension and drama that Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? would be proud of. Just make a decision already! Someone's going to

be angry and take legal action whatever you do, so just get the ball rolling.

Kingston Heath is a nice complex, it's just a shame that when a player spits on the pitch the match has to be abandoned because the ground has become waterlogged. Note to the FFV, next time there is a postponed game there, replay it as soon as possible. Don't wait for any scheduled weekends off, there may be a backlog of games by then. Could have learned this lesson after the issues at Knights Stadium two years ago, when ground-sharing between Melbourne Knights and Hume City and a struggling pitch saw a postponed game having to be played after the final round of the season. Which sort of goes against the whole idea behind having every game in the final round having to be played simultaneously. Clearly someone on St Kilda Road is a little slow on the uptake.

Gives me something to write about I suppose, but it's pretty sad for those who love the game to have to put up with.



Even Judge Judy can't work it out...

WAG OF THE WEEK



Gemma Atkinson Age: 25
Insignificant Other: Dated Cristiano Ronaldo (Man Utd) and was engaged to Marcus Bent (Birmingham City).



Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Monday August 9th, 2010
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.

11:30 pm The World Game - Presented by David Basheer and Craig Foster. Non-stop news, views, reviews, highlights, features and profiles on football from around the world plus all the results and news from the major competitions and tournaments. Includes commentary from current and former players.

Sunday August 15th, 2010
10:30 am Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia

11:00 am Les Murray's Football Feature

12:00 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial - Weekly magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.



All games LIVE unless stated. All times AEST

A-LEAGUE		
Fri Aug 13	Wellington v Gold Coast	5.30 pm
Fri Aug 13	Newcastle v Melbourne Heart	7.30 pm
Sat Aug 14	North Queensland v Sydney	5.00 pm
Sat Aug 14	Melbourne v Perth	7.30 pm
Sun Aug 15	Central Coast v Adelaide	2.30 pm

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY		
Thursday 12 August	Slovenia v Australia	4.30 am

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Sat Aug 14	Tottenham v Manchester City	9.40 pm
Sat Aug 14	Aston Villa v West Ham	11.55 pm
Sat Aug 14	Blackburn v Everton	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 14	Blackpool v Wigan	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 14	Bolton v Fulham	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 14	Sunderland v Birmingham	11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Aug 15	Chelsea v West Brom	2.25 am
Sun Aug 15	Wolves v Stoke	7.30 pm (DELAY)
Mon Aug 16	Liverpool v Arsenal	12.55 am
Tues Aug 17	Manchester United v Newcastle	4.55 am

npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE		
Sat Aug 14	Leyton Orient v Charlton	4.30 am
Sun Aug 15	Notts Forest v Leeds	10.00 pm
CARLING CUP		
Tues Aug 10	Carling Cup – Stevenage v Portsmouth	4.30 am
Wed Aug 11	Carling Cup – Chesterfield v Middlesbrough	4.30 am

FOX SPORTS FC		
Tues Aug 10		8.30 pm



Monday 9th August	
9am	Russian Premier League – Spartak Moscow vs Zenit St Petersburg
11:45pm	League of Ireland – Shamrock Rovers vs Bohemians

Wednesday 11th August	
4:30am	U-21 International – England vs Uzbekistan LIVE

Thursday 12th August	
5am	International – England vs Hungary LIVE
10:45am	Copa Libertadores Final 1st Leg LIVE
3:15pm	TBC

Friday 13th August	
10:45am	Copa Sudamericana – Santos vs Avai LIVE

Saturday 14th August	
4:30am	TBC LIVE
9:15pm	SPL – Inverness CT vs Celtic LIVE
11:55pm	SPL – Rangers vs Kilmarnock LIVE

Sunday 15th August	
2:45am	Eredivisie – Ajax vs Vitesse LIVE
7am	Russian Premier League – Teams TBC
8:45am	J-League – Kashima Antlers vs FC Tokyo
9pm	SPL – Motherwell vs Hibernian LIVE

Monday 16th August	
3am	Russian Premier League – Teams TBC
5:15am	Portuguese Liga – Benfica vs Academica LIVE



The Futbol Town Show Every Monday 7pm	SMFC TV Channel 31 Every Saturday 10.00am
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Extra Time Magazine Show Every Wednesday 8pm	The Green Gully Football Show Every Saturday 10.30am
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Global Football Show
Jacob Kagi and Ian Hooper discusses local, national and international football every Thursday night from 7.30-9pm on WA's SportFM 91.3.



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Jets and United kick off first HAL game

As the A-League kicks-off its sixth season it already seems that its first ever match is part of history. On Friday 26 August 2005, Newcastle Jets took on Adelaide United at Energy Australia stadium to set the ball in motion. There had been pre-season cup matches and the first trophy had been won by Central Coast Mariners, but this was the start of a new competition which was to replace the National Soccer League which came to an end in 2004.

Over the 2000–01 and 2002–03 seasons the aggregate losses of the NSL clubs were estimated to have exceeded \$52 million. The average attendance at NSL matches in 2003–04, including finals, was 4446. The solution adopted was to bring the league to an end after season 2003–04 and replace it with a completely new competition, incorporating franchised clubs in a one-city, one-team model. The initial plan was for a 10-team league with expansion to 12 or more in future, but in the end only eight teams were deemed acceptable and even then some failed to meet the financial criteria for entry. The short-term effect on the careers of players, particularly young players, was seriously adverse. They missed almost two years of elite level competition at a critical stage of their development.

The model for the new competition that was developed aimed at one club per city and one per state, with the exception of New South Wales which eventually had three—Sydney FC, Central Coast Mariners based in Gosford, and Newcastle Jets. New Zealand Knights was included giving the league an international dimension and the longest distance between the home grounds of competing teams of any league in the world. A small number of teams allowed concentration of the available talent to raise standards and a return to clear geographic locations as the basis for support. It also allowed for a short domestic season so that leading teams could take part in international competitions, such as the Asian Champions League and the World Club Championship. It took time to plan and organise the new league and its constituent teams so there was no national competition in the summer of 2004–05.

As the Crawford Report insisted, there was ‘passionate latent public support’ for the game in Australia. That was demonstrated in succeeding years as the new A-League attracted attendances averaging more than 10,000, while Melbourne Victory drew so many fans that it had to move from the traditional association football stadium, Olympic Park with its 18,000 capacity, to Telstra Dome (now Etihad Stadium) in Docklands, which holds more than 55,000. In 2007, Victory and Adelaide United set an Australian club record for a football match when they drew 55,463 to the A-League Grand Final.

But back to that first game. 13,160 fans turned up to see the Jets beaten by a goal to nil. In the 19th minute United broke through to take the lead. Lucas Pantelis found Ross Aloisi down the Adelaide left, and the skipper sent over a cross which Carl Veart glanced past Jets goalkeeper Liam Reddy for the first goal of the new competition. Newcastle tried to hit back and Mark Bridge, Matthew Thompson and Ante Milicic all had shots on goal two of which were saved by Daniel Beltrame while Adam van Dommele blocked the third on the goal-line. But Adelaide held on for its narrow win.

In Sydney, the home team with marquee player former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke leading the way played a pulsating one-all draw with Melbourne Victory in front of a then record crowd of 25,208 at the Sydney Football Stadium. Yorke got Sydney’s opener just before half time from an Andrew Packer cross but Archie Thompson equalised with a decisive header from Carl Recchia’s pass



Dwight Yorke leads the party when Sydney FC won the inaugural HAL championship in 2005/06.

Photo: Therese Duffy



Archie Thompson shoots past Terry McFlynn and Jacob Timpano in Victory's five-nil demolition of Sydney FC in 2005. Photo: Geelong Advertiser.



Simon Colosimo of Perth Glory slides in on Michael Ferrante in Victory's first competitive game in 2005. Photo: Geelong Advertiser. Inset: International pair Geoffrey Claeys and Richard Kitzbichler pose at Olympic Park after signing for the Victory. Photo: Gordon Bennett

with 18 minutes left to play. The Sydney-Melbourne rivalry was established straight away. Because there was a last minute rush of spectators the gates were opened and last couple of thousand got in for nothing.

Earlier that day 20,725 saw Queensland Roar beat New Zealand Knights thanks to a brilliant drive by Alex Brosque after substitute Michael Baird set him up. The Kiwis had a goal chalked off for interference with keeper Tom Willis and Baird capitalised on a bad back pass to secure the points for Roar with a second goal four minutes from time. Suncorp stadium was rocking for that opening game.

In the final match in Perth the Glory went down at home to Central Coast Mariners with 11,113 fans at the game. That was the Mariners second win over the Glory in successive weeks, as it had won the pre-season cup the previous weekend. There was only a goal in it, scored by Noel Spencer with a thirty-metre pile-driver.

So the new league kicked off with lots of promise and after several ups and downs it is back bigger than ever in 2010.

HAL Round 1 2006

Newcastle Jets 0 - 1 Adelaide Utd

Played (26/08/05)
Energy Australia Stadium
Referee : Peter O'Leary, Crowd : 13162
Jets: Liam Reddy, Jade North, Craig Deans, Ned Zelic, Richard Johnson, Matt Thompson (Labinot Haliti 66), Ante Milicic, Nick Carle, Paul Kohler (Steve Eagleton 46), Mark Bridge (Stuart Musialik 85), Allan Picken
Coach : Richard Money
AUCF: Daniel Beltrame, Richie Alagich, Kristian Rees, Angelo Costanzo, Michael Valkanis, Ross Aloisi, Lucas Pantelis (Matthew Kemp 63), Louis Brain (Chad Bugeja 87), Travis Dodd, Adam van Dommele
Goal : Veart 19
Coach : John Kosmina

Perth Glory 0 -1 CC Mariners

Played (26/08/05)
Members Equity Stadium
Referee : Ben Williams, Crowd : 11113
Glory: Jason Petkovic, Simon Colosimo (Nick Ward 80), Jamie Harnwell, Steve McMahon Jnr, Scott Miller (Hiroyuki Ishida 63), Bobby Despotovski, Ante Kovacevic, Jamie Coyne, Billy Celeski, Brain Deane, Henry Fa'arodo (Adrian Caceres 46)
Coach : Steve McMahon
Mariners: John Crawley, Noel Spencer, Michael Beauchamp, Andrew Gumprecht, Dean Heffernan, Tom Pondeljak, Damien Brown (John Hutchinson 90), Stewart Petrie, Andrew Clark, Matthew Osman, Alex Wilkinson
Goal : Spencer 66
Coach : Lawrie McKinnn

Old Roar 2 - 0 New Zealand Knights

Played (28/08/05) Suncorp Stadium
Referee : Matthew Breeze, Crowd : 20725
Roar: Tom Willis, Karl Dodd (Warren Moon 58), Remo Buess, Chad Gibson, Josh McCloughlan, Massimo Murodocca, Royce Brownlie (Michael Baird 52), Jonathan Richter, Matt McKay (Tae-Yong Shin 63), Hyuk-Su Seo, Alex Brosque
Goals : Brosque 80, Baird 86
Coach : Miron Bleiberg
Knights: Danny Milosevic, Darren Bazeley, Ronnie Bull (Steve Fitzsimmons 83), John Tambouras (Zenon Caravella 67), Danny Hay, Neil Emblen, Ben Collett, Sean Devine, Joshua Maguire (Xiaobin Zhang 75), Joshua Rose, Jeremy Christie
Coach : John Adshead

SydneyFC 1 - 1 Melbourne Victory

Played (28/08/05) Sydney Football Stadium
Referee : Mark Shield, Crowd : 25208
SFC: Clint Bolton, Iain Fyfe, Alvin Ceccoli, Mark Rudan (Jacob Timpano 76), Ufuk Talay (Matthew Bingley 76), David Zdrilic (David Carney 58), Steve Corica, Sasho Petrovski, Andrew Packer, Terry McFlynn, Dwight Yorke
Goal : Yorke 43
Coach : Pierre Littbarksi
Victory: Eugene Galekovic, Kevin Muscat, Geoffrey Claeys, Steve Pantelidis (Chris Tadrosse 66), Michael Ferrante, Andy Vlahos, Daniel Allsopp, Archie Thompson, Carl Recchia, Kristian Sarkies (Ricky Daico 66), Adrian Leijer
Goal : Thompson 73
Coach : Ernie Merrick

Match details from Ozfootball website.

**Serbia**
Partizan will face Belgian giants Anderlecht in the fourth and final qualifying round for the UEFA Champions League. The ‘gravediggers’ defeated Finish Champions HJK Helsinki 5:1 on aggregate, winning both home and away ties, Brazilian Cleo scored both goals in the return leg in Helsinki. Partizan will play the first match at home against Anderlecht and will be hoping to reach its first Champions League since 2003/04.

Serbia lost all three participants in the Europa League following defeats to OFK Beograd, Spartak Subotica and Red Star Belgrade. OFK Was thrashed by Turkish giants Galatasaray 5:1 despite taking the game to the Turks but inexperience got the better of the ‘Romantics’. Spartak lost away to Ukraine’s Dnipro 2:0 which cancelled out Spartak’s first leg 2:1 win, they can however be very proud of their first taste of European football.

Red Star needed to win by two goals in Bratislava following a home loss seven days earlier but they couldn’t find a win as the match finished 1:1. Kadu scored Red Stars only goal in a match which witnessed a 30 minute suspension due to the floodlights losing power. Being knocked out of European football so early on is a big disappointment for a club like Red Star and manager Ratko Dostanic handed in his resignation. Assistant coach Aleksandar Kristic will be the interim manager.



Hadjuk on fire



Cleo celebrates another goal

National Team Manager Radomir Antic named an unchanged squad for the friendly against Greece in the coming week. Antic hit out at the Serbian press and showed his disgust to the allegations of his sacking.

“I believe in my players. The average age of this squad is 26 and we are ready for the future of Serbian football and what it holds for us. Im very happy we are playing against our good friends Greece whom we have a great relationship with and I hope the fans come out show their gratitude to our good friends.” Antic said in a midweek press conference.

Goalkeepers: *Vladimir Stojković, Bojan Isailović, Anđelko Đuričić, Željko Brkić*

Defenders: *Branislav Ivanović, Antonio Rukavina, Nemanja Vidić, Neven Subotić, Aleksandar Luković, Ivan Obradović, Aleksandar Kolarov*

Midfielders: *Dejan Stanković, Gojko Kačar, Nenad Milijaš, Zdravko Kuzmanović, Radosav Petrović, Miloš Krasić, Zoran Tošić, Miloš Ninković, Milan Jovanović*

Forwards: *Nikola Žigić, Marko Pantelić, Danko Lazović, Dragan Mrđa*

The Serbian League kicks off next week and here are the Round one fixtures.

Partizan – Indijia
Hajduk – Sloboda Sevojno

OFK – Metalac
Rad – Cukaricki
Borac – Javor
Spartak – BSK
Vojvodina – Jagodina
Smederevo – Red Star

Croatia



Dinamo Zagreb was disappointing once more as they crashed out of the Champions League following a penalty shoot out loss to Moldova’s Sheriff. The match was level 2:2 on aggregate as the second leg finished 1:1 after Sammir cancelled out Vladimir Volkovs opener for Sheriff. Veleimir Zajec’s men missed four penalties and will now have to be happy with a Europa League spot where they take on Hungarian side Győr, if they win that, Dinamo will be once more in the group stage of the European football’s second tier completion.

Hajduk Split celebrated a famous 3:0 win over Romania’s Dinamo Bucharest after they had lost 3:1 away. An excellent opening 45 minutes gave the Croats a fitting lead which they kept to the very end. Stanko Poklepovic’s men repaid the faith given to them by the fans and rewarded them with an excellent performance. Vukusic, Brkljaca and Tomasov scored excellent goals, winning their club a two match showdown with another Romanian side Unirea.

Man U’s New Red Devil

In a transfer season where there has been very little movement from England’s biggest clubs, there has seemingly been very little for United fans to get excited about on the transfer front.

With only two new signings and no real solid indication that the big signing so many fans crave, it seems that United’s transfer season just as quietly as it begun back in January when United announced they had agreed a fee to bring Chris Smalling to the 18 times Premier League champions after completing the season at Fulham. United’s only other signing of the window thus far was just as unexpected and puzzling when United announced the signing of Javier “Chicharito” Hernandez on the 8th of April.

Any scepticism regarding the move was quashed when Hernandez showcased his capabilities at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, scoring impressive goals in Mexico’s games against France and Argentina. Of all United’s players at the tournament, it was the new boy who scored the most goals, and was arguably the most impressive United player present at the grand football festival.

United fans everywhere were forced to wait until last Wednesday to get a glimpse of the 22 year old in United colours, when he came on as a 60th minute substitute for Nani against the MLS All Stars, capping off his debut with a delightful lob over the opposition keeper, demonstrating great pace, timing and composure to cap of a promising first appearance. Days later he scored in his second consecutive game, this time against United, having played the first 45 minutes of United’s latest friendly against Chivas for his former club, with a stunning first time left footed drive to once again demonstrate why the rumoured £7 million Sir Alex spent on

the youngster could be some of the best money he has ever spent as manager of Manchester United.

Sir Alex has admitted that pulling off the signing before the World Cup was pivotal to making this acquisition at a price that seems unbelievably low considering the amount of money other clubs are spending on talent (not mentioning any club in particular...), and has praised Hernandez for the attitude with which he has approached the challenge of playing for a massive club like United:

“Chicharito has done really well. The players have all remarked how good he is and what a great finisher he is - I think there are similarities between him and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

“The players are all supportive of him and have welcomed him to the club. I think he has a great future with us.” United may not have signed a Wesley Sneijder or a Mesut Ozil thus far, but here are five reasons to get excited about United’s latest signing, Chicharito:

1.Pace – Hernandez was measured the quickest player at the 2010 World Cup for good reason. His goal against the MLS All Stars demonstrated how effective a forward with pace is when he plays off the last man. Sir Alex knows that a striker with pace is a striker who will get on the end of more chances than most, and he knows in Chicharito he has a striker who is faster than most.

2. Price – At around the £7 million mark, Hernandez represents value for money. Considering Chelsea recently had a bid of £20 million knocked back for Neymar, a player who in all seriousness isn’t worth half that amount yet, United fans can be confident in Ferguson’s ability to pick up a bargain. If Hernandez’s performances for Mexico and so far in this pre season are anything to go by, it could be the bargain



Javier “Chicharito” Hernandez

of the season.

3. Composure – It’s one thing to have the pace to get behind defenders, but it’s another thing entirely to show the composure to finish comfortably in a one on one situation. In Mexico, Hernandez scored such goals for fun, and he again demonstrated his ice cold finishing ability on the biggest stage of all when he rounded Hugo Lloris of France with fantastic calmness to score against the French at the World Cup.

4. X-Factor – In a squad that has remained largely unchanged from last season, it is fair to say that Hernandez could very well

be the big difference between the United of last season, and the one that will compete for glories on all fronts this season. Another striker will do little harm to a side whose chronic lack of fit strikers towards the end of the season when Wayne Rooney, Michael Owen and Federico Macheda all experienced injury troubles, really hurt them in the most important period of the title race. Chicharito ability to score special goals as well means that he is more than a bit of extra depth to this United squad, but rather, he may also prove the difference in United’s tightest games.

5. Attitude – If he’s said it once, he’s said it one hundred times already. Hernandez won’t settle for anything better than the best in his first season at United. He has reiterated his commitment to proving his worth to United fans, players and Sir Alex Ferguson alike and has expressed his great thankfulness to the club for trusting in his talent. It’s a trust the 22 year old is hungry to reciprocate with good performances, and that sort of attitude is priceless today in a game where players so often lose track of what is important in football, which is ultimately what you do when you cross that white line.

Inter V Guadalajara in Copa Final

COPA LIBERTADORES
It's down to the wire now! The final has been decided. Inter-nacional remains on course for a second Libertadores Cup success in five seasons

when they overcame a late sending off to edge out fellow Brazilians São Paulo on the away goals rule in their semi-final on Thursday.

Inter, winners in 2006 when they beat three-times South American champions São Paulo in the final, lost 2-1 at the Morumbi in Brazil's biggest city but went through having won the first leg 1-0 in Porto Alegre last week. They meet Guadalajara's in the two-leg final on Aug. 11 and 18 after the Mexican side beat Universidad de Chile 3-1 on aggregate earlier in the week. Inter will host the second leg.

"We're satisfied to be in the Libertadores final, obviously very satisfied, but I feel a bit flat after this defeat. I think Internacional did not deserve to lose today," said coach Celso Rios, who took charge after Uruguayan Jorge Fossati was sacked despite having steered them into the semi-finals. Inter had midfielder Tinga sent off 10 minutes from time for a second bookable offence but São Paulo failed to score a third goal despite enjoying the lion's share of possession.

Alex Silva headed São Paulo into a 1-0 halftime lead after a blunder by keeper Renan, who dropped an easy high ball. Striker Alecsandro flicked in playmaker Andres D'Alessandro's free kick in the 51st minute to equalise but Ricardo Oliveira restored the home side's lead less than two minutes later when he beat the offside trap and shot from the right.

Inter have already guaranteed a Club World Cup appearance in Abu Dhabi in December even if they were to lose the final since Mexican teams, from the CONCACAF region, are guests in the South American Confederation's (CSF) flagship event. In 2006, Inter were crowned world club champions when they beat Barcelona, winners last year in Abu Dhabi, in the final in Japan.

Last Wednesday, Guadalajara recorded a stunning 2-0 away win over Universidad de Chile on Tuesday to reach the Libertadores Cup final for the first time. Xavier Báez and Jonny Magallón scored in each half of the semi-final second leg to give the Chivas a 3-1 aggregate win as they made the most of a goodwill gesture to invite them into South America's top club tournament.

They became only the second Mexican team to reach the final since the country's clubs were first invited to take part in 1998. Last year, Guadalajara and fellow Mexicans San Luis withdrew from the tournament when their opponents declined to travel to Mexico for second round matches because of the H1N1 swine flu outbreak.

The Mexican Football Federation angrily announced their teams would not take part in future but the row was quickly patched up and the two teams were given automatic places in the last 16 of this year's tournament as compensation.

As a result, Guadalajara, beaten semi-finalists in 2005 and 2006, needed only six matches the reach the final. Universidad de Chile started the match as favourites after their 1-1 away draw last week but left too many gaps at the back as they threw players forward.

The warning signs were evident when Guadalajara striker Omar Bravo had two chances to score in the first five minutes. The Chivas, who field only Mexican players, went ahead in the 22nd minute when Báez scored with a long-range shot.

José Contreras and Rafael Olarra hit the bar for the Chileans in a three-minute spell before the break but it was Guadalajara who struck again when defender Magallón headed their second goal seven minutes after halftime. It ended sour for the azules as they repeated a semi-final end to the Copa Libertadores repeating recently that of 1996 when they were destined to win it but lost to eventual champions River Plate of Buenos Aires. Again, the National stadium in Santiago was left silenced where Chivas showed dominance in midfield.



Alex Silva scores the early goal for Sao Paolo.

Argentina and Brazil have agreed to play two friendly matches annually, using only players based in the local leagues. Julio Grondona, the president of the Argentine Football Association, and his Brazil counterpart Ricardo Teixeira made the announcement Friday in the Argentine capital. Each country will get an annual home game, although no specific details were announced about scheduling.

The annual matches between the two powers should build excitement in the buildup to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Both countries were ousted in the quarter finals in this year's tournament in South Africa. Brazil has won the World Cup five times and Argentina has won twice.

Last week, the signing of Sergio Markarián for the Peruvian national team was confirmed but omitted from this article space. The Uruguayan-born has been in charge of the Paraguayan side when captained by the charismatic José Luis Chilavert in goals. The former Panathinaikos and Universidad de Chile tactician is noted for his spiritual intervention when seeking guidance. There is great doubt Markarián will have a goal-scoring goalkeeper to relive the glory days of Teófilo Cubillas and company. Peru also lives in its glorious shadows and are in need of a revival - a real revival.

His task will undoubtedly involve convincing Werder Bremen's Claudio Pizarro. Jefferson Farfán is also a regular goalscorer in Europe while in goals there is huge promise with George Forsyth - a very Peruvian name for a Peruvian goalkeeper and Leao Butrón, one of the best hands in the country if not, the continent. Either of the two should get the nod but who is to say Markarián can call-up another up-and-coming custodian?

Boasting a record tally of goals against or conceded is not pretty and Markarián uses discipline to his pupils to obviously get results. This has been the real on-going issue with Peruvian football. It is just the challenge he was looking for whilst being out of a job as he signed before the dotted line. Markarián is a man with his brother whom have copyrighted a well-respected football managing software as well. Does anybody know of this here on our shores?

To consider FIFA unjustly omitted a fifth spot for CONMEBOL for the next World Cup in Brazil 2014, the pity given for the African Confederation for an extra spot was overlooked by Sepp Blatter's board. Therefore, Markarián with his new-soon-to-be-seen Peru outfit will have to battle out in the toughest qualifying group, the South American group where Paraguay may lose their depth of squad after a brilliant display in South Africa up until last month. Argentina and Brazil of course are expected qualifiers with the latter already in automatically. Bolivia still looks to be in tatters. No news on Ecuador just yet. Uruguay also are expected to repeat qualification but certainly not repeat its feat in South Africa. Who knows? Uruguay is known worldwide to party-poop Brazil's festivities in their own backyard.



MEXICO
Mexico captain Rafael Márquez, who has been strongly linked in the media with a move to New

York Red Bulls, has reached a deal with La Liga champions Barcelona that releases him from his contract. If the deal with the Red Bulls goes through, the 31-year-old would join former team mate Thierry Henry in New York. The French striker moved to the Major League Soccer (MLS) this month after he was also freed from his contract with Barça.

Márquez can operate as a centre back or defensive midfielder and would be the Red Bulls' third "designated player", whose wages are mostly exempt from the salary cap, along with Henry and Colombian striker Juan Pablo Ángel. He joined Barcelona from French Ligue 1 side Monaco in 2003 and has won four Spanish league titles and two European Champions League crowns.

"I am leaving because maybe last season I didn't get so much playing time and that's what I am looking for," said Márquez, who started only seven league games in the 2009-10 campaign. "I would like to have retired here (at Barça) but conditions are not always how you would prefer them to be."



BRAZIL
Corinthians surrendered the Brazilian league title to Fluminense when they were held to a 1-1

draw by Palmeiras on Sunday. Fluminense moved to the top with a 3-1 win over Atlético Paranaense on Saturday, reaching 26 points from 12 rounds. Corinthians had a chance to overtake the Rio de Janeiro club but finished the weekend a point behind.

Corinthians scored in the 21st minute with midfielder Jorge Henrique, who scored from close range even though TV replays seemed to show he was offside. Palmeiras equalized in the 33rd when defensive midfielder Edinho found the net off a rebound from goalkeeper Julio César (not the Inter Milan custodian).

Palmeiras had three goals correctly disallowed because of offsides, and the teams complained of what appeared to be missed penalty calls for both sides. Palmeiras is yet to win since World Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari took over four rounds ago. The four-time national champions dropped to 11th in the 20-team standings after Sunday's result.

It was coach Adilson Batista's debut with Corinthians after replacing Mano Menezes, who last month left the club to take over the Brazilian national team. Fluminense extended its unbeaten streak to nine matches with the win at the Maracanã stadium on Saturday, with striker Washington scoring twice in his first match since re-signing with the Rio club after a stint with São Paulo. Fluminense has three wins and two draws

since the World Cup break five rounds ago.

In Porto Alegre, city rivals Gremio and Internacional played to a scoreless draw at Beira-Rio stadium, a result that moved Internacional to third place and extended Gremio's winless streak to six matches. Gremio remains in relegation zone after playing one of the most fiercest clásicos in Brazilian football. In Florianópolis, the city of relaxed lives and most notably of former tennis star Gustavo 'Guga' Kuerten's homeplace is home to fifth-place Avaí who beat Goiás 4-1, while Botafogo defeated Vitória 3-1 in Salvador with a pair of goals from striker Jobson. Vitória rested many of its regular starters to keep them fresh for the Brazilian Cup final against Santos on Wednesday. Vitória lost the first leg 2-0 in Santos.

Santos won its second in a row in the Brazilian league after three straight losses, edging Prudente 2-1 in Presidente Prudente and moving to seventh place. Rodriguinho and Danilo scored a goal each for Santos, which also rested most of its starters, including national team players Robinho, Paulo Henrique Ganso, Neymar and André. Santos barely held on to the victory as Prudente missed two penalty kicks late in the game. Defender Paulo César had his shot saved in the 83rd, and Robson struck the crossbar with his attempt three minutes into injury time. Defender Leonardo's header in the 84th also hit the crossbar.

Sixth-place Cruzeiro beat Atlético Mineiro 1-0 in Sete Lagoas with a goal by striker Wellington Paulista, leaving Mineiro next-to-last in the standings. Flamengo and Vasco da Gama drew 0-0 at Maracanã in the derbies of derbies in Brazilian club football. On Saturday, six-time champion São Paulo defeated fourth-place Ceara 2-1 to earn its first victory in five matches. Fernandão and former Real Betis striker Ricardo Oliveira scored a goal each at Morumbi stadium. Coach Ricardo Gomes used most of his regular starters despite the upcoming second leg of the Copa Libertadores semifinal against Internacional on Thursday. São Paulo lost the first match 1-0 in Porto Alegre thinking about their semi-final clash. Also Saturday, last-place Atlético Goianiense held Guarani to a 1-1 draw in Goiania.



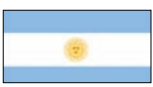
CHILE
In what was perhaps the best game by far from the words of Diego Cagna at Colo-Colo, the newly-

crowned Chilean champions defeated San Felipe 5-2 pulsatingly. It was also the debut for Argentine forward Javier Cámpora who had turned down offers from the side to play in Cyprus to then later reconsider. He also expressed his delight on the match saying he was "very happy to have made my debut with this jersey and everything went smoothly".

He also added he needs to "take advantage of the minutes on the park and play with more confidence when Diego puts him on". Diego Cagna that is whom has the near-obligation of adding him up front to bolster Colo-Colo strikepower up front whom have yet to win a Copa Libertadores since 1991. "Playing this way will enable my adaptation a lot easier".

On another note, every player from the popular club admitted it was the best match so far in the Chilean tournament, the one against San Felipe. Matías Quiroga manifested his words with several reporters that "the game was spectacular, it was one of the best we've held at home and we were lucky to had put in all those (goals) we had mistaken".

Ezequiel Miralles, another Argentinean starting forward sustained his same stance on the club's intentions to defend its title and win the overall championship. "It will be like this 'til the end of season, neck-and-neck. With this class in a championship in any country, the big clubs always lead away from the pack. It will not be easy but we are on the right path". Maybe he's referring to the same-old, same-old. The big clubs elsewhere are starting to not live up to their glorious pasts and struggle under its shadows.



ARGENTINA
Interim coach Sergio Batista's future with

the Argentina team will be on the line in upcoming friendlies against Ireland and World Cup champion Spain. Julio Grondona, president of the Argentina Football Association, hinted Friday that Batista could get the job permanently if Argentina wins both matches — at Ireland on August 11th and at home at the River Plate "Monumental" stadium against Spain on September 7th.

Batista was named interim coach after the AFA on Tuesday declined to renew the contract to Diego Maradona. Batista has been Argentina's youth-team manager and led Argentina to the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics.

Others being mentioned include Estudiantes coach Alejandro Sabella, Claudio Borghi of Boca Juniors having recently toured Melbourne and Wellington and boasts Sergio Batista's brother as his assistant and two who are out of work—"El Virrey" (The Viceroy) of Boca Juniors, Carlos Bianchi and ex-international, ex-Racing of Avellaneda coach Diego Simeone. Asked if winning both games might land Batista the job permanently, Grondona replied: "Could be."

Grondona said there was no rush to name the new coach. "The doors are open for everybody," he said. Grondona declined to comment more on Maradona. A day after his contract was not renewed, Maradona accused Grondona of lying to him, and said Carlos Bilardo — the Argentine national team director—had betrayed him. Grondona said that Bilardo, who is set to hold a news conference next week, would not be talking more about Maradona's dismissal. "The less said about the topic, the fewer chances to make mistakes," Grondona said.



URUGUAY
Uruguay's top forwards, Diego Forlán and Luis Suárez, have been left out of the

squad picked to face Angola in a friendly on Wednesday in Lisbon, Portugal.

Midfielder Cristián Rodríguez was included in Thursday's squad after missing the World Cup through suspension. Rodríguez was suspended for four games after the final qualifier against Argentina, which would have made him ineligible for two World Cup games.

The team will be coached by Juan Verzeri, who is taking over for Oscar Tabárez. Tabárez led Uruguay to a surprising fourth place in the World Cup but is still negotiating a new contract with the Uruguay federation.

On the darkest note in years; Bruno Souza, the Brazilian goalkeeper suspected of having his ex-girlfriend killed, was on Friday formally charged with her murder, officials said. The footballer, who played for Rio de Janeiro's Flamengo, was also charged with kidnapping, hiding a body, forming a criminal gang and corrupting minors, police in the state of Minas Gerais told a media conference.

Even though the body of the alleged victim, 25-year-old Eliza Samudio, has not been found, police wrapping up an initial phase of their probe on Thursday determined that Souza masterminded her death.

"Forensic police will prove that Eliza is dead," the officer in charge of the investigation, Edson Moreira, said. He added that inquiries were continuing to bolster evidence and attempt to find the body. Seven other people, including an ex-policeman suspected of carrying out the premeditated murder on Souza's orders, have also been charged. Souza's wife was among them.

Samudio disappeared last month after being taken to Souza's second residence near the southern city of Belo Horizonte. The woman, who had a four-month-old baby she claimed was fathered by Souza, was believed to have been demanding child support. The baby was found in the care of Souza's wife.

Souza was suspended from Flamengo—Brazil's most popular club, which he once captained—when the allegations against him first surfaced. Photos of the goalkeeper published on Friday showed him with a shaved head. Reports said he had burned his hair to hinder a DNA examination.



With Leroy Robinson in the UK



PREMIER LEAGUE PREDICTIONS

By Leroy Robinson

The start of a new Premier League season wouldn't be the same without some erroneous predictions. I've dusted off the crystal ball and here's what came out, next year's top 4 come the end of May.

1st - Chelsea

Michael Essien is back and fit, and they look like signing Ramires from Benfica, bolstering an already strong midfield. Once Jose Bosingwa is back from injury they'll have the best defence in the league.

For: They have much the same squad as last year - but for the loss of deadwood like Deco and Ballack. Anelka must surely score more than 11 goals next term. They've proved they can cope with injuries and suspensions.

Against: They rely a lot on Drogba and Lampard. Can they really score 51 goals (along with 30 assists) between them like they did last year, and will Malouda chip in with 12 like he did in 2009-10. They're not invincible (they lost 6 games last year) and a lack of creative talent and a lack of pace may stifle them against the best teams.

2nd - Manchester United

Though relatively quiet in the transfer market they have few fitness problems and the Old Trafford fear factor will see them pose a title challenge. They have kept the nucleus of the team together.

For: Antonio Valencia should be more settled and able to produce more consistently. Nani showed glimpses of excellence (10 assists) last year but the best is yet to come. Berbatov surely has to score more than 12 league goals, and if he doesn't then new OT darling Javier Hernandez is ready and willing to take over.

Against: They had the best defence in the league and were 2nd top scorers but still managed to finish second. Ferdinand isn't fit for the start of the season. They're over reliant on Rooney and his goals and need a creative midfielder like Mesut Ozil to knit the midfield with the attack because Fletcher and Carrick don't cut it in the centre of the park.

3rd - Manchester City

Money doesn't buy titles but it certainly does buy UCL places at the very least. Can't see the money Roberto Mancini has spent winning them a title but the crystal ball does predict a top three finish.

For: They have improved in all areas of the pitch and have the deepest squad in the league. They lost 7 games



Nikola Zigic

last year - the same as Man United - and drew 13, yet only missed out on a top 4 place by 3 points. Turning those 13 draws into a few wins should see them cement a higher league place. Mancini will have a full season to impose himself and his style of play on the team.

Against: Will the team gel with all these changes? Can they handle the pressure of expectation and can Mancini?

They conceded far too many goals (45) last year and changing half the defence may not make them a better unit. Central midfield has too many water carriers like Viera, de Jong, and Barry. If they start badly the whole thing could implode with volatile characters like Tevez, Adebayor and Bellamy.

4th - Arsenal

The biggest problem for Arsenal is that they actually played pretty well for much of last season. The question is can they improve with what they have?

For: More or less the same team as last year and they've strengthened in attack by signing Chamakh and ditching Eduardo. The defence is stronger too with the addition of Koscielny alongside the excellent Vermaelen. They have strength in midfield with Nasri, Song, Walcott, Diaby, Arshavin and Fabregas.

Against: Same error-prone 'keepers as last year. Though a relatively young squad they choke when the going gets



Mauro Boselli

tough. Main striker Robin van Persie is injury-prone and there's no depth (and few goals) in the position with Chamakh more a deep lying attacker than a front man. Rely too much on Fabregas (15 goals, 15 assist) and Walcott has yet to turn potential into performance.

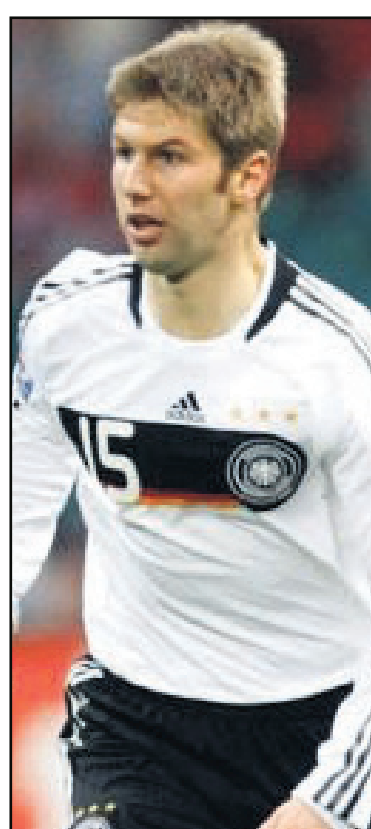
THREE FOREIGNERS TO WATCH

With less than seven days to go until the big kick-off in England and there has been a lack of transfer activity in this year's Premier League, with the global recession biting everywhere but Eastlands. Yes, £176m has been spent at the time this has been written but when you think that at least £70m of it is by just one club (Many City) the average spend of the others has been a paltry £5.5m or so per head. Much of this "spend" has been on foreign imports. But forget David Silva, Jerome Boateng and Yaya Toure, the most intriguing transfers have involved the smaller clubs.

NIKOLA ZIGIC (Birmingham City)

At 6'8" I present the tallest man in the Premier League. The Serb (rumoured to be half man-half giraffe) didn't quite distinguish himself at the World Cup, so he has that much in common with Wayne Rooney.

Unlike Rooney you won't see him glide by defenders and lash a 30-yard



Thomas Hitzlsperger

thunderbolt. Expect him to be on the end of crosses and to score in double figures if he plays regularly. The great advantage he has at Birmingham is he'll get regular game time - something which didn't happen at Valencia. Bear in mind the last time he was a first choice regular was during the 2008-09 season for Racing Santander when he scored 13 goals in 19 games. A signing who will have people discussing Birmingham manager Alex McLeish as an idiot or a genius come the end of the season.

MAURO BOSELLI (Wigan Athletic)

This guy is an intriguing signing who has gone under the radar in England. Not much was known about him before he signed and even now he's hardly been mentioned by the mainstream press.

What do I like about him? Boselli is a winner. In 2009 he helped Estudiantes win the Copa Libertadores, and will most certainly be a regular starter for the Latics. He's only 25 and yet had an excellent goal scoring record for Estudiantes in Argentina - 22 goals in 48 games in 2008-2009, and 27 goals in 40 games in 2009-2010. It wasn't enough for the 5'11" forward to be in the Argentine World Cup squad during the summer, but good enough to secure a £6m move to England.

He has been hailed by Wigan coach Roberto Martinez as a clever player and natural finisher who "lives to

put the ball in the back of the net". As with all signings, especially those from another continent, he poses a huge gamble for Martinez, but could be another Antonio Valencia or Wilson Palacios.

Everything depends on the type of service he receives, and whether he can hit the ground running. They start off at home to Blackpool next week so I expect Boselli to open his account, the first of many.

THOMAS HITZLSPERGER (West Ham United)

Whoever said the best things in life are free couldn't have just been talking about the birds and the bees. They must have had Thomas Hitzlsperger in mind too.

It is the opinion of this columnist that the Hammers - under the ownership of David's Gold and Sullivan - pulled off a major coup by bringing the ex-Germany international on a free to Upton Park. I don't think it's disrespectful to suggest that the former Aston Villa, VFB Stuttgart and Lazio midfielder has taken a step backwards in his career by joining West Ham, especially when at 28 he should be in his prime.

Regardless, he is an excellent player who had a poor time of it last year for VFB and was loaned to Lazio, a team who narrowly avoided relegation. What a comedown! Here was a player who during the 2008-09 season had 11 goals and 10 assists in 58 games. He takes a mean free kick and is an excellent passer - just what West Ham need alongside Mark Noble. They'll need him to be on form as they start off at Thomas's former club Aston Villa next week.

EPL Round One - Fox Sports Listings

Sat Aug 14 Tottenham v Man City 9.40 pm

Sat Aug 14 Aston Villa v West Ham 11.55 pm

Sat Aug 14 Blackburn v Everton 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Aug 14 Blackpool v Wigan 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Aug 14 Bolton v Fulham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sat Aug 14 S'land v Birmingham 11.55 pm Viewers Choice

Sun Aug 15 Chelsea v West Brom 2.25 am

Sun Aug 15 Wolves v Stoke 7.30 pm (DELAY)

Mon Aug 16 Liverpool v Arsenal 12.55 am

Tues Aug 17 Man United v Newcastle 4.55 am

Sources: sky sports news, espn soccernet



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NORTH ROCKS, NORTH ROCKS NEWSAGENCY, 312B NORTH ROCKS RD
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Knights Lose Top Spot To Perth

By Jacob Kagi

The Western Knights threw away the chance to consolidate their position at the top of the APB Football West State Premier League and defend their title as Premiers when they went down 2-1 at home to Perth.

With Stirling Lions who were equal top with the Western Knights being thumped 3-0 by ECU Joondalup they would have moved three points clear at the top with a win, but instead Perth's win sees them leapfrog both teams to take top spot, with just three rounds left.

Perth face three of the teams struggling at the wrong end of the table, while the Knights and Balcatta play each other in the final round, meaning that Perth's win has come at the perfect time for them to hold on and take the league title.

The Knights started well and should have hit the front as early as the fifth minute following good work by Daniel Micevski down the left, he found new signing Jack Doyle who was playing up front, but his shot was hit straight at the Perth 'keeper.

Three minutes later Doyle had another chance to open the scoring when Duncan Hind surged up field and fed the big Irishman, he beat the offside trap according to the linesman, however he stopped for a split second and once again the 'keeper gathered.

Perth then came to life and first Olivera shot wide, and Hayden Doyle tried an audacious chip that had Siddall back-pedaling frantically. It was end to end stuff for the next half an hour, and the Knights created the

best chance to open the scoring. A deflected effort fell to the impressive Versaico, who clipped a ball to the back post and the unmarked Daniel Micevski, but his shot across goal went wide of the far post.

As the half came to a close Hayden Doyle chased a long ball from Kay and Siddall had to be at his best to tip his effort over the cross bar.

Five minutes into the second half the game had the goal it needed. Jack Doyle played a perfectly weighted ball into the path of Montgomery, who ran into the box on the angle and smashed the ball into the far corner of the net.

Instead of this being the foundation for a Knights victory it proved their undoing. Perth came back immediately. A free kick half way inside the Knights half was played into the box by Puca, the Knights defence was static, as Onoforo laid the ball back to Kilkelly, and he swept the ball into the back of the net from the edge of the area. The Knights had held their lead for just two minutes. From that point on they never looked likely to regain it, with the players' body language saying that they were defeated.

An edge came to the game which saw a flurry of yellow cards issued, and Daniel Micevski was targeted by the Perth players and as a result disappeared into his shell and the Knights lost one of their best attacking options.

In the 67th minute Perth took the lead, with a goal that could hand them the title. Siddall had saved superbly from a Hayden Doyle long range shot, but was forced to concede a corner. Puca whipped the ball in,

not at a great height, Siddall failed to come for it and the tireless De Felice stooped to nod the ball home from three metres.

The Knights only looked like salvaging a point in the dying minutes. Substitute Campbell who was introduced with 15 minutes remaining flicked a ball into the path of David Micevski, who looked a certainty to score but his goal bound effort struck Danskin and ricocheted to safety; great covering play by Danskin who knew very little about his block.

Then it was Campbell who squandered an opportunity when he headed wide following a rare Daniel Micevski sortie forward. The Knights woes were compounded when their captain David Annall was red carded for moving his face into the face of a Perth player.

Perth showed that despite not playing that well and with key players missing they have the wood mentally over the Knights.

In other games, Floreat Athena consolidated their position in fourth and closed the gap on Stirling and the Knights with a 3-2 win over bottom side Cockburn. Cockburn were 2-1 down and pulled a late goal back to make it 3-2 but ran out of time, to salvage a point. They remain three points adrift at the bottom of the table behind Swan United who went down 1-0 at Mandurah City.

Inglewood who started the day second bottom had a much needed win over Armadale 4-3. Armadale who were reduced to ten men showing great Spirit to fight back after being 4-1 down.

Newly promoted Balcatta who have struggled in the second half of

NEXT ROUND

Round 20

Sat 14 Aug 3PM

Armadale v Mandurah City
Alfred Skeet Oval

Sat 14 Aug 3PM

Sorrento v Floreat Athena
Percy Doyle Reserve

Sat 14 Aug 3PM

Stirling Lions v Inglewood United
Macedonia Park

Sat 14 Aug 3PM

Swan United v Western Knights
Swan Italian Club

Sat 14 Aug 3PM

Cockburn City v ECU
Joondalup Dalmatinac Park

Sun 15 Aug 3PM

Perth SC v Balcatta
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens

DIVISION ONE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bunbury Forum Force	18	14	1	3	69	16	53	43
2 Bayswater City	18	14	1	3	61	22	39	49
3 Wanneroo City	18	13	2	3	45	20	25	41
4 Forrestfield United	18	11	2	5	47	29	18	35
5 Gosnells City	18	11	0	7	41	35	6	33
6 Dianella White Eagles	18	7	4	7	39	40	-1	25
7 Canning City	18	6	5	7	33	36	-3	23
8 Morley-Windmills	18	6	4	8	30	39	-9	22
9 Fremantle SC	18	3	6	9	26	46	-20	15
10 Rockingham City	18	5	0	13	16	54	-38	15
11 Ashfield	18	3	1	14	33	52	-19	10
12 Queens Park	18	2	0	16	21	70	-49	6

the season just as Canning City did last year, and who went straight back down, had a much needed 3-1 win over Sorrento, which will go a long way to their premier league survival.

Three round to go and realistically four teams could win the league, and the relegation battle looks like becoming a two horse race, although next weekend's results could change all that.

WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Perth SC	19	11	2	6	40	33	7	35
2 Western Knights	19	10	4	5	41	24	17	34
3 Stirling Lions	19	10	4	5	30	24	6	34
4 Floreat Athena	19	9	5	5	39	24	15	32
5 Sorrento	19	8	4	7	34	37	-3	28
6 ECU Joondalup	19	6	7	6	42	41	1	25
7 Armadale	19	7	4	8	33	34	-1	25
8 Mandurah City	19	7	3	9	28	36	-8	24
9 Balcatta	19	7	2	10	32	41	-9	23
10 Inglewood United	19	6	4	9	29	40	-11	22
11 Swan United	19	4	7	8	24	31	-7	19
12 Cockburn City	19	4	4	11	29	36	-7	16

WA RESULTS

FOOTBALL WEST APB STATE LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION

Results - Saturday, 7 August 2010

First Team

Floreat Athena 3 (Mirco 16, Bachiller 25, Niederberger 71) Cockburn City 2 (Feely 63, 86);

ECU Joondalup 3 (O'Callaghan 13, Watt 22, 35) Stirling Lions 0;

Western Knights 1 (Montgomery 50) Perth SC 2 (Kilkelly 52, De Felice 67);

Inglewood United 4 (Geddes 14, Clarke 24, 52, Stoits 45)

Armadale 3 (J Robinson 8, Barlow 65, 67);

Mandurah City 1 (Pashkewitz 73) Swan United 0;

Balcatta 3 (O'Neill 9, Italiano 88, Human 90) Sorrento 1 (Harnwell 22).

Reserves

Floreat Athena 2 Cockburn City 3; ECU Joondalup 2 Stirling Lions 1; Western Knights 0 Perth SC 2; Inglewood United 2 Armadale 2; Mandurah City 1 Swan United 2; Balcatta 0 Sorrento 1.

Under 18's

Floreat Athena 4 Cockburn City 2; ECU Joondalup 1 Stirling Lions 2; Western Knights 1 Perth SC 1; Inglewood United 3 Armadale 1; Mandurah City 2 Swan United 0; Balcatta 0 Sorrento 3.

DIVISION ONE

Results - Saturday, 7 August 2010

First Team

Wanneroo City 5 (Timmings 29, Booysen 32, Pugh 44, OG 64, Cairney 89) Rockingham City 1 (Bremner 88);

Morley-Windmills 4 (Radanovic 12, 31, 76, Vandeross 60) Fremantle Spirit 1 (Fearon 55P);

Gosnells City 3 (Lally 10, Francis 73, Cave 82) Queens Park 1 (Chikombe 68);

Canning City 1 (Ryder 79) Bunbury Forum Force 2 (Kavanagh 2, Quinn 34);

Dianella White Eagles 1 (Wingell 16) Forrestfield United 3 (Burns 15, Carter 47, OG 76);

Ashfield 0 Bayswater City 2 (Catalano 71, Karpeh 80).

Reserves

Wanneroo City 9 Rockingham City 0; Morley-Windmills 0 Fremantle Spirit 3; Gosnells City 6 Queens Park 3; Canning City 3 Bunbury Forum Force 5; Dianella White Eagles 5 Forrestfield United 0; Ashfield 0 Bayswater City 0.

Under 18's

Wanneroo City 1 Rockingham City 1; Morley-Windmills 0 Fremantle Spirit 8; Gosnells City 4 Queens Park 3; Canning City 0 Bunbury Forum Force 4; Dianella White Eagles 1 Forrestfield United 3; Ashfield 0 Bayswater City 3.



Football West weekend action from the top of the table clash between Perth SC and Western Knights.
PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

Wembley Hero to Speak at Cup Final Breakfast

This year's Football West Cup Final Breakfast is being held at the Burswood Hotel and will see former Everton hero Mike Trebilcock as guest speaker.

Trebilcock scored twice as Everton came back from two goals down against Sheffield Wednesday to win 3-2 in 1966.

Both Cup final teams will be in attendance and Tickets are \$55. Contact ntfs@inforadio.com.au for more details or call 0418 907 478.



Mike Trebilcock takes a swig out of the 1966 FA Cup

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BLACKTOWN AND APIA THROUGH, MARCONI OUT

By Mike Salter

The Blacktown City Demons won through 5-4 on penalties against Sydney United on Sunday, to win a place in the major semi-final against premiers Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Blacktown triumphed despite being reduced to nine men in the course of the game, playing out almost the entirety of extra time with a two-man deficit. Luka Glavas's strike early in the second half brought United level after Joel Chianese had put the hosts in front on 13 minutes, and the 1-1 scoreline remained unchanged thereafter.

United must now survive a sudden-death semi-final against APIA-Leichhardt next week to stay in the competition; APIA saw off Marconi 1-0 in the "Italian derby" at Leichhardt Oval. Details of that match follow.

APIA-Leichhardt 1-0 Marconi Stallions

A high-quality game at Leichhardt Oval was decided by a moment of individual brilliance from APIA captain Franco Parisi, whose 78th-minute strike kept his side in the competition while eliminating Marconi from the 2010 NSW Premier League.

The game was barren of goalmouth action in the early stages, with both sides feeling each other out to some extent. APIA created the first chance for themselves on 18 minutes; Robert Younis, deep on the right, played the ball infield to Stephen Kayes, who picked his way through the Marconi defence and found room for a shot, which James Chronopoulos had to dive to his left to save.

On 29 minutes, Parisi gave a sign of things to come when a swift turn was followed by a powerful run through the midfield; arriving on the edge of the area, the home team's captain snatched at his right-footed shot, which skidded harmlessly wide. Seconds later, there was a good chance at the other end: young Mitchell Mallia advanced on the left and found the overlapping Giorgio Speranza, whose cross was volleyed over the bar by Alex Canak.

Marconi finished the first half strongly. A good one-touch move in the centre gave Jarrod Lum a half-chance on 36 minutes, and soon afterwards a marvellous run down the right by Chris Nunes ended with a deft ball into Jason Naidovski, who took too long over his eventually deflected shot. From the resulting corner, Canak headed tantalisingly over the bar.

APIA began the second half with renewed spirit, Parisi forcing another save from Chronopoulos after good lead-up work by Nick Rizzo. Then it was Marconi's turn, with the away side calling the tune around the hour mark. Mallia snatched a volley just wide, and another charge down the right



Franco Parisi's winner secures APIA's passage to the Minor Semi-Final. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO



FNSW Elimination Final action between APIA and Marconi. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/FNSW

by Nunes was matched by an excellent cross which Naidovski contrived to volley off target, in Marconi's best chance of the game. On 61 minutes, there was another chance for the visitors, Umut Tokdogan's well-flighted free kick requiring a smart save from Matthew Nash.

Soon after Nash was forced into action again, gathering a deflected Naidovski shot, Matt Fsadni replaced APIA's out-of-sorts winger Andrew Vitucci, and the hosts gradually played their way back into the ascendancy. On 69 minutes Parisi proved a thorn in Marconi's side again, thrusting through the middle and feeding Rizzo on the left; the former Liverpool man took too many touches, and his attempt to play in the advancing Younis

was intercepted.

APIA were not to be denied on 78 minutes, however. The home side worked the ball fluently through the midfield, and Parisi was left with the task of playing in Younis. His through-ball was blocked, but Parisi managed to race onto the rebound, leave two stunned defenders in his wake and prod the ball neatly past Chronopoulos with his right foot.

Things went from bad to worse for Marconi five minutes later, when Canak was dismissed for a horrible foul on Mark Byrnes. APIA had several chances to score a safety goal in the succeeding minutes, but neither Parisi's slalom through the defence on 85 minutes nor Younis's dipping free kick three minutes later found their mark.

Marconi, however, rarely looked like scoring, even when they threw the entire team forward in the desperation of injury time; Sean O'Connor, a second-half substitute, found room for a right-footed volley from a throw-in rebound just after the ninety minutes ticked over, but it sailed well over the bar. An unfortunate finale for last season's beaten grand finalists.

Finals matches (Week 2):

Bonnyrigg v. Blacktown City (Major semi-final)
Sydney United v. APIA-Leichhardt (Minor semi-final)

NSW LADDER				
	P	W	L	Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles (P)	22	13	6	45
Blacktown City FC	22	12	4	40
Sydney United	22	11	6	39
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	22	12	3	39
Marconi Stallions	22	11	3	36
Sutherland Sharks	22	9	4	31
Rockdale City Suns	22	6	12	30
Bankstown City	22	7	5	26
Manly United FC	22	7	4	25
South Coast Wolves	22	6	4	22
Sydney Olympic (R)	22	6	3	21
West Sydney Berries (R)	22	2	6	12

NSW RESULTS				
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: FINAL SERIES: ELIMINATION SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Franco Parisi 79m) Marconi Stallions 0.				
GRADE 20: Bankstown City 3 (Cameron White 38m Troy Danaskos 96/110m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Michael Svircevic 9m) Extra Time (1-1 F/T).				
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS: FIRST GRADE: Blacktown City FC 5 (Joel Chianese 13m) Sydney United 4 (Luka Glavas 51m) Win on penalties (1-1 F/T 1-1 E/T).				
GRADE 20: Sydney United 1 (Own goal 20m) Sydney Olympic 0.				
NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 21: FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 2 (A Smith 82m R Nambu 88m) Dulwich Hill 1 (A Mittiga 84m), Sydney University Northern Tigers Postponed. Inter Lions 4 (A Uccchino 53/68/79m G Di Mento 82m) Fairfield City Lions 3 (Y Ekinci 42/66m T Gabriel 52m), UNSW 0 Hills Brumbies 1 (P Down 53m), Camden Tigers 0 Gladesville Ryde Magic 1 (D Macinko 43m).				
GRADE 20: Fraser Park 2 Dulwich Hill 1, Sydney University Northern Tigers Postponed. Inter Lions 2 Fairfield City Lions 3, UNSW 3 Hills Brumbies 5, Camden Tigers 0 Gladesville Ryde Magic 5.				
RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 17: FIRST GRADE: Spirit FC 0 Northern Tigers 2 (T Spencer 81m M Glanville 88m).				
GRADE 20: Spirit FC 1 Northern Tigers 1.				
ROUND 20: FIRST GRADE: St George Macarthur Rams Washed Out, Granville Rage 0 Fraser Park 3 (A Smith x 1 R Nambu x 1 A Barletta x 1), Mt Druitt Town 3 (E Georgees 15/50m L Berbis 67m) FC Bossy Liverpool 0.				
GRADE 20: St George Macarthur Rams Washed Out, Granville Rage 1 Fraser Park 0, Mt Druitt Town Rangers 1 FC Bossy Liverpool 0.				
DIVISION ONE: ROUND 21: FIRST GRADE: Balmain SC 6 (Own goal 50m G Buonavoglia 67m N Paradisis 71m L Merlino 82/87m J Burkett 90m) Hurstville ZFC 1 (D Pandza 53m),				
Stanmore Hawks 3 (W Hijazi x 2 P Hadjisocratous x 1) Mounties Wanderers 1 (F Romeo x 1),				
Blacktown Spartans 2 (L Infanti x 1 G McPherson x 1) Schofield Scorpions 2 (L Boyd x 1pen T Simpson x 1).				
GRADE 20: Balmain SC 0 Hurstville ZFC 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 Mounties Wanderers 2, Blacktown Spartans 3 Schofield Scorpions 6.				
RESCHEDULED GAMES: ROUND 11: FIRST GRADE: Inter Lions 1 (B Ellis 17m) Balmain SC 2 (G Buonavoglia 48m pen N Paradisis 80m). GRADE 20: Inter Lions 4 Balmain SC 1.				

FNSW FINALS - Week 2

Semi Final 1
Sydney United vs APIA Leichhardt Tigers
7:00 PM Sat 14/Aug

Semi Final 2
Bonnyrigg White Eagles vs Blacktown City FC
3:00 PM Sun 15/Aug

Venues TBA.
Please check FNSW website for details.



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A-LEAGUE

BACK ROW (L-R): Franz Straka (Coach), Gareth Edds, Mark Hughes, Panagiotis Nikas, Justin Pasfield, Jason Spagnuolo, Osama Malik, Brett Studman, Chris Grossman, Simon Storey
FRONT ROW (L-R): Andre Kilian, David Williams, Eric Akoto, Jack Hingert, Chris Payne, Ufuk Talay, Adam Casey, Dylon Daal, Matthew Ham, Isaka Cernak

Tassie relegation fight down to final round

By Walter Pless

The relegation battle in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League will not be decided until next weekend's final round of league matches.

Second-last Olympia Warriors thought they might be safe and that bottom-side Taroonna would go down, but a late surge by Taroonna has brought them level on points with Olympia going into the final round.

Taroonna had lost 1-0 to league champions South Hobart last Sunday through a second-half strike by Kostas Kanakaris, which left them three points adrift of second-last Olympia.

Olympia were beaten 3-1 at home by third-placed Glenorchy Knights on Saturday, while Taroonna overcame third-last Kingborough Lions United 2-1 away at KGV Park the same day to make it all square again on points.

Only goal-difference now keeps Olympia ahead of Taroonna, and both sides have just one game to play.

Taroonna must meet Glenorchy Knights, while Olympia face second-placed Tilford Zebras in the final round.

Toby Dove put Taroonna ahead against the Lions, while Garry Hamilton hit the winner. Marcello Marchioli replied for the Lions.

Jackson Marsh headed the Knights in front against Olympia, but a penalty converted by Kosta Grillas made it 1-1.

Mathew Nowicki and Brendan Garth then netted to stab a knife through the heart of Olympia, which must be dreading next week's encounter with arch rival Tilford Zebras.

League champions South Hobart maintained their unbeaten record this season when they drew 1-1 away with fourth-placed Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

Clarence are still locked in a battle with fifth-placed New Town Eagles for the fourth spot.

New Town Eagles were to meet Tilford Zebras on Sunday at Clare Street and a victory for Eagles was a must.

South Hobart dominated the match against Clarence but had just one goal to show for it.

They squandered several good openings before Shae Hickey put them ahead on the half-hour when he curled a ball into the box from the right and it eluded everyone before nestling inside the net.

Clarence rarely ventured forward, but in the 73rd minute, a defence-splitting pass by Nathan Rees had South in trouble.

Hugh Ludford desperately tried to get back, but the ball found Luke Cripps on the left of the box and his simple square



Shae Hickey scored South Hobart's goal against Clarence United. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



Olympia's Kosta Grillas gets the better of Glenorchy Knights' Alex Holmes. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

NORTH RESULTS

Launceston City 5 lost to
Ulverstone 6

Launceston United 2 lost to
Prospect Knights 6

NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	13	10	3	0	47	18	33
Devonport City	13	10	2	1	46	19	32
Riverside Olympic	14	8	2	4	42	24	26
Burnie United	14	8	0	6	48	30	24
Ulverstone	15	7	2	6	44	35	23
Prospect Knights	15	7	2	6	44	36	23
Somerset	14	6	0	8	35	50	18
Launceston City	14	2	1	11	25	44	7
Launceston United	16	0	0	16	17	96	0

NTH NEXT ROUND

Round 18
Saturday 14th August
Northern Rangers v Devonport City NTCA 2.30pm
Prospect Knights v Launceston City Harley Parade 2.30pm
Riverside Olympic v Somerset Windsor Park 2.30pm
Ulverstone v Burnie United Ulverstone Showgrounds 2.30pm
Launceston United - Bye

SOUTH RESULTS

Clarence United 1 drew with
South Hobart 1
Olympia FC Warriors 1 lost to
Glenorchy Knights 3
New Town Eagles 2 lost to
Tilford Zebras 3
Taroonna 2 defeated
Kingborough Lions 1

SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	19	16	3	0	56	14	51
Tilford Zebras	20	11	4	5	47	36	37
Glenorchy Knights	20	10	4	6	39	34	34
Clarence United	20	7	7	6	38	38	28
New Town Eagles	20	6	6	8	38	36	24
Kingborough Lions	20	6	3	11	26	38	21
Olympia FC Warriors	20	2	6	12	23	45	12
Taroonna	19	3	3	13	22	48	12

STH NEXT ROUND

Round 21
Friday 13th August
Glenorchy Knights v Taroonna KGV Park 8pm

Saturday 14th August
South Hobart v New Town Eagles South Hobart 2.30pm
Kingborough Lions v Clarence United Lightwood Park 2.30pm
Tilford Zebras v Hobart Olympia KGV Park 6.30pm

pass across the box found team-mate Luke Huigsloot unmarked and he was untroubled in firing past Sam Kruijver for the equaliser.

"We got a bit untidy and they got a break-away goal," said South Hobart coach, Ken Morton.

"We had lots of possession but we didn't hurt them with some of our crosses.

"We had enough chances to put the game to bed, but if you don't take your chances you're in trouble.

"And, let's be honest. The goal they got on the break was a good goal and a good finish.

"Cripps is always strong and he holds people up and he played a great pass and Huigsloot put it away. We've got to be aware of that.

"We can whinge all we like about people sitting deep, but we have to be good enough to break that down. We had enough crosses across the face of goal where we should have done better.

"But, it's another unbeaten game and I'm happy with that."

Northern Rangers retained the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League title with a 3-0 away win over Somerset.

Ulverstone beat Launceston City 6-5 away, while Launceston United went down 6-2 at home against Prospect Knights.

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METROSTARS GO BACK TO BACK MINOR PREMIERS

By Nat Adamopoulos

Adelaide City’s great run home has restored faith in their fans with their 2-1 defeat of Campbelltown City at The Newton Village Sports Complex, with young striker Patrick DeRuvo and Brazilian Riccardo Da Silva scoring for the black and whites and veteran Jason Trimboli scoring for the Red Devils. The recent resurgence of Damian Mori’s men has tongues wagging, now talk of yet another Championship a possibility with their current in-form football.

With central defender Paul Pezos back from Premier League club Adelaide Olympic, City looked the more dangerous of the two sides within the first 20 minutes of the match and presented several opportunities for their strikeforce of DeRuvo and Da Silva that tested Campbelltown’s keeper Les Pogliacomì. The Red Devils had a chance to break the deadlock in the 15th minute when a ball crossed in from near the corner flag had a diving Stanko Zilic going for goal only to receive a yellow card from for handballing the shot in the process. The Red Devils coach Rocky Aloisi had talent Matthew Deegan usually pushing forward and scoring the odd goal or two, playing a more deeper role in this match which seemed to lose the sting in the side. Youngster Raf Frisina teamed up with Stephen Piotto and Zilic in the midfield but had the job ahead of them up against a hard working midfield of Adelaide City in Nicky Orr, Paul Blefari, Nick Budin and Jace Cummins who has had a good 2010 season. Budin stood out not only for his bright yellow boots but for some of the hard fought challenges he competed in, playing just behind the two strikers and providing supply up front. Success eventually came on the half hour for Adelaide City with DeRuvo finding the back of the net to put the black and whites in front. Despite having more chances from Budin and Da Silva scores remained the same as both sides went in for the half time break.

The Red Devils started the second half with a vengeance, Vas Parhas getting the ball up in the 46th minute but taking the sting out with a weak shot at City’s keeper Luke Ostbye. Campbelltown were then caught on the break as Ostbye released quickly finding his midfielder Orr who forwarded a ball to Da Silva, the striker volleying a shot at outstretched Pogliacomì who was able to get a hand to it but not stop if from going into the net. On the



Metros v Raiders Matricciani....MetroStars striker Michael Matricciani looking dangerous up front flanked by Raiders players Matthew Murocroft and Danni Hain. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

backfoot, Campbelltown now had to play some super football to overcome Adelaide City but were consistently being overturned in the midfield. Aloisi was looking for venom in his side making a double substitution in the 60th minute, taking Ali Toure and Frisina off and bringing on the zippy Aaron Taye and experienced Jason Trimboli. Mori then substituted his midfielder Budin for Andrew Malveggio who has been an exciting prospect whenever he’s taken to the pitch who immediately showed his strength. It didn’t take Trimboli long to get into the action, the veteran striker scoring with the second bite of the cherry from a great cross by Deegan, in the 68th minute that had Ostbye executing a diving save with the first attempt but not being able to counteract the second. Despite the onslaught of Campbelltown, the backline of Adelaide City stood strong under the pressure and prevented the equalizer from coming. The win saw City leap-frogging the Red Devils into fourth position on the ladder but not altering the top five that was finalized in round 16.

Other results around the grounds for Round 17 of the FFSA Super League saw MetroStars make it back to back minor premiership titles with a 1-0 win over Raiders at TK Shutter Reserve, young gun Perry Mitris scoring the only goal of the match in the first half. Credit to coach and former player David Terminello as MetroStars have been undermanned for most of the season with key defender Lee Robertson seeing few matches as has midfielder Michael Pirone and striker Scott Tunbridge succumbing to lengthy injuries. With great depth to the squad and players coming back at just the right time, the minor premiers are favourites to take out the treble with a Federation Cup and Super League Championship still up for grabs. The loss sees Raiders still fighting against relegation, playing the bottom side Cumberland in the last match for the season and ultimate survival.

Zoran Karadzic’s Adelaide Blue Eagles continued their great run for 2010 with a strong 2-0 win over Adelaide Galaxy at the Marden Sports Complex with young gun Kym Harris doing all the damage



Metros v Raiders Yong....raiders keeper Dan Atkins saves a certain goal from the Gazelle James Yong PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

SUPER LEAGUE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
MetroStars	17	11	4	2	36	17	19	37		
Adelaide Blue Eagles	17	9	4	4	38	21	17	31		
Para Hills	17	8	5	4	26	19	7	29		
Adelaide City	17	9	2	6	24	25	-1	29		
Campbelltown	17	7	5	5	27	22	5	26		
Western Strikers	17	5	7	5	32	32	0	22		
Adelaide Galaxy	17	4	7	6	19	23	-4	19		
Raiders	17	4	5	8	17	23	-6	17		
Adelaide Cobras	17	5	2	10	23	37	-14	17		
Cumberland Utd	17	1	3	13	17	40	-23	6		

NEXT ROUND										
Round 18										
Sat 14/08/2010										
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Blue Eagles										
<i>3pm Adelaide City Park</i>										
Adelaide Galaxy vs MetroStars										
<i>3pm Con Makris Park</i>										
Campbelltown vs Western Strikers										
<i>3pm Newton Village Sports Complex</i>										
Para Hills vs Adelaide Cobras										
<i>3pm The Paddocks</i>										
Raiders vs Cumberland Utd										
<i>3pm Croatian Sports Centre</i>										

PREMIER LEAGUE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Modbury	17	11	3	3	44	22	22	36		
Croydon	17	9	4	4	30	20	10	31		
Enfield City	17	7	6	4	29	26	3	27		
Adelaide Comets	17	8	2	7	31	29	2	26		
Pirates	17	5	7	5	28	25	3	22		
Adelaide Olympic	17	5	6	6	27	25	2	21		
Adelaide Hills	17	6	2	9	30	32	-2	20		
White City Woodville	17	5	4	8	22	25	-3	19		
Salisbury Utd	17	6	1	10	21	33	-12	19		
West Adelaide	17	5	1	11	17	42	-25	16		

STATE LEAGUE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Noarlunga Utd	15	9	5	1	31	15	16	32		
Northern Demons	15	8	5	2	26	19	7	29		
Playford City	15	8	3	4	35	17	18	27		
N.A.B.	15	6	5	4	33	27	6	23		
Seaford	15	7	2	6	26	25	1	23		
Toros	15	5	2	8	33	39	-6	17		
Gawler	15	4	3	8	21	29	-8	15		
South Adelaide	16	3	5	8	25	31	-6	14		
Cove	15	2	2	11	17	45	-28	8		

scoring both goals. Yet again midfielder Mitch Nicholson got his name in the best players for the day, the youngster having a sterling season for the Azzurri. The loss sees Carl Maynard’s Galaxy now drop into the relegation battle only 2 points clear of Raiders in eighth position and Adelaide Cobras in ninth position.

A ten man Cobras were on the wrong end of the result at their home ground Weigall Oval as they went down to Western Strikers 3-1 giving the visitors a sign of relief as they stay in the Super League for yet another year. UK import Callum Flanagan scored a brace with Steve McNeill scoring the other for the Strikers, while Darren Turner was the only one to find the back of the net for the Cobras. This now leaves the Cobras in the dangerous position going straight back down to the Premier League as they face the dangerous young side of Para Hills Knights away for the last match of the season. Cumberland United Foxes found just what a punch the Knights can pack as they copped a 0-5 defeat by Kenny Tosh’s side. A hat-trick for Adelaide United Youth League player Joel Allwright did the damage, with Mullen boys Matthew who has also played for the youth league team and Alex who has been exciting to watch this season adding to the blowout. Debut Senior Coach Tosh is looking forward to the last round as much as he is waiting to play in the top five final series.

All eyes will be watching the Raiders, Cobras and Galaxy as they play out their final matches for survival in the Super League.

SA RESULTS										
DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE										
Round 17 Results										
Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (K.Harris 2) Adelaide Galaxy 0 (HT 2-0)										
Best – Blue Eagles (K.Harris, G.DeLucia, M.Nicholson)										
Galaxy (J.Wright, S.DeGiovanniello, J.Torresan)										
Res – Blue Eagles 0 Galaxy 1										
U19 - Blue Eagles 3 Galaxy 0										
Adelaide Cobras 1 (D.Turner)										
Western Strikers 3 (C.Flanagan 2, S.McNeill) (HT 0-0)										
Best – Cobras (D.Turner, C.Mullen, O.Totani)										
Strikers (M.Russo, C.Noujaim, M.Lastella)										
Res – Cobras 0 Strikers 6										
U19 – Cobras 1 Strikers 3										
Campbelltown City 1 (J.Trimboli)										
Adelaide City 2 (P.Deruvo, R.Da Silva) (HT 0-1)										
Best – Campbelltown (S.Zilic, S.Piotto, M.Deegan) Adel City (N.Orr, P.DeRuvo, L.Ostbye)										
Res – Campbelltown 1 Adel City 2										
U19 – Campbelltown 2 Adel City 2										
Cumberland United 0 Para Hills 5 (J.Allwright 3, A.Mullen, Ma.Mullen) (HT 0-2)										
Best – Cumberland (R.Lippett, R.Macdonald, M.Charalambous) Para Hills (A.Goulding, J.Allwright, S.Tobias)										
Res – Cumberland 2 Para Hills 2										
U19 – Cumberland 2 Para Hills 0										
MetroStars 1 (P.Mitris)										
Raiders 0 (HT 1-0)										
Best – MetroStars (L.Robertson, P.Mitris, J.Groves)										
Raiders (D.Hain, R.Alagich, D.Barisic)										
Res – MetroStars 0 Raiders 1										
U19 – MetroStars 1 Raiders 1										

DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

Modbury 1 (C.Dean)

Adelaide Hills 1 (N.Elliott) (HT 1-0)

Best – Modbury (M.Kelly, A.Solagna, C.Dean)

Adel Hills (A.Kelly, N.Elliott, S.Papini)

Res – Modbury 2 Adel Hills 2

U19 - Modbury 4 Adel Hills 1

Croydon 1 (P.Kirreh)

Adelaide Olympic 3 (M.Talbot 2, N.Andijanto) (HT 0-2)

Best – Croydon (D.Christison, C.D'Alfonso, P.Kirreh) Olympic (N.Andijanto, A.Iandorio, M.Talbot)

Res – Croydon 5 Olympic 2

U19 – Croydon vs Olympic (Match Abandoned)

Pirates 1 (J.Mavromatis)

Adelaide Comets 1 (E.Demourtzidis) (HT 0-1)

Best – Pirates (M.Markham, J.Mavromatis, K.McFadyen)

Comets (M.Seacomb, E.Demourtzidis, N.Day)

Res – Pirates 1 Comets 3

U19 – Pirates 3 Comets 1

West Adelaide 1 (T.Hatzis)

Enfield City 3 (C.Marwe, J.Cristarella, T.O.G.) (HT 1-1)

Best – West Adel (D.Lambrinos, C.Robinson, M.Alexandrou)

Enfield (Jo.Costa, Ja.Costa, R.Waller)

Res – West Adel 1 Enfield 0

U19 - West Adel 5 Enfield 0

White City Woodville 1 (M.Keens)

Salisbury 0 (HT 1-0)

Best – White City (M.Keens, D.Lekic, P.Crisci)

Salisbury (S.Lindsay, J.Miller, S.Marron)

Res – White City 0 Salisbury 2

U19 - White City 1 Salisbury 7

DEVINE HOMES STATE LEAGUE

Gawler 0 The Cove 0 (HT 0-0)

Best – Gawler (C.Woodland, A.Lynn, G.Joy)

Cove (B.Szentepeteri, D.Graystone, N.O'Reilly)

Res – Gawler 1 Cove 2

U19 – Gawler 1 Cove 1

Northern Demons 2 (S.Gannon, P.Keane)

Noarlunga United 2 (A.McArdle, P.Paris) (HT 2-1)

Best – Demons (N.Young, S.Gannon, J.Capurso) Noarlunga (F.McLean, K.Madaley, B.Cooper)

Res – Demons 0 Noarlunga 0

U19 – Demons 2 Noarlunga 3

Seaford 1 (D.Ellis)

N.A.B. 4 (N.Sette 3, V.Schimizzi) (HT 0-3)

Best – Seaford (D.Ellis, D.Taylor, F.Slattery)

N.A.B. (S.Forte, N.Sette, M.Seatree) Res –

Seaford 1 N.A.B. 1

U19 – Seaford 2 N.A.B. 5

South Adelaide 2 (B.Coombs, J.Cook)

Playford City 2 (S.Farncombe, G.Zotti) (HT 1-1)

Best – South Adel (C.Reed, T.Barnhurst, J.Cook) Playford (J.Allen, M.Beron, M.Gaston)

Res – South Adel 3 Playford 0

U19 - South Adel 2 Playford 2

Bulls End Strikers' Winning Streak

By Jarrod Ellis

After the 2010 QSL Premiership was sewn up last week by Sunshine Coast Fire only the battle for the minor placings remained in the penultimate round of fixtures.

The most anticipated match of the weekend saw Brisbane Strikers host FNQ Bulls in a face-off between second and third on the ladder.

In the previous meeting between the two sides a thrilling 4-4 result played out in front of those lucky enough to be watching. With that encounter firmly entrenched in the memory, the fans who made the trip to Perry Park would have been disappointed with what proved to be a pedestrian opening forty-five.

The Bulls began the better, pressing the Strikers inside their own half for much of the opening ten minutes, but there were no shots on goal until the 13th minute when Bulls' top scorer, David Ruiz, tested Strikers' keeper Seb Usai from twenty yards with a left-footed shot that forced Usai to dive low to his left.

The home side gradually won themselves an even share of the ball but found it difficult to penetrate a hard-working Bulls midfield of Joe Rusch, Calum Wood and Bronson Koppen.

The remainder of the first half played out with little goal mouth action, perhaps a by product of the match getting underway in the unfamiliar conditions of the afternoon sun.

The whistle for the start of the second half seemed to indicate a change in the spirit of proceedings as Brisbane went on the attack straight from the restart. Bulls' keeper Angelo Serafin was forced into action to deny Brad McDonald twice in the opening five minutes.

The Strikers were looking the better side but the visitors who would make the breakthrough in the 59th minute. For possibly the first time in the half the Bulls were able to get some numbers into the Strikers' half, right winger Josh De Nitis collecting the



QSL action between the Brisbane Strikers and NQ Bulls on Saturday afternoon. Victor Madrid (Bulls) slides in to thwart Sean Burke (Strikers). PHOTO: KEITH EIGELAND

ball before going on a run infield that attracted the attention of the Brisbane defence. De Nitis then performed an intelligent piece of play, laying the ball back into the open space left behind him. Alex Plowman was the first to react and he wasted no time, powering a shot into the net.

Brisbane looked visibly upset at having gone behind but it wasn't too long until they managed to draw level thanks to substitute Jonti Richter. Brought on in 72nd minute in an effort to break down a resolute Bulls defence, Richter was given the perfect opportunity to do just that when he was delivered an excellent through pass by Matt Christensen. Racing onto the ball at full pace Richter was left with only Serafin to beat and he did just that, squeezing the ball past him to draw the Strikers level.

However the home side were barely able to consider the prospect of pushing on for victory before they were behind again.

Bulls' midfielder Rusch was allowed time on the ball before stroking a simple twenty-yard straight ball to Ruiz on the edge of the Strikers' penalty area. Ruiz had acres of space in front of him and made it count, driving a low shot past Usai, a goal that secured a 2-1 win and a third place league finish for his side.

With FNQ Bulls defeating Brisbane earlier in the day NQ Razorbacks went into their match with Sunshine Coast knowing only a victory would keep alive their hopes of finishing third.

Despite being at home the Razorbacks were faced with a massive task as newly crowned Premiers Sunshine Coast have been in impressive form of late. That fact was reinforced early on as Shaun Blackman opened the scoring for the visitors in the 13th minute. The Razorbacks weren't prepared to lie down though and they struck back only eleven minutes later as Joshua Searle converted a spot kick.

The task would prove too great for the home side however as from there Sunshine Coast dominated proceedings. As was the cast last week against Whitsunday, Shaun Blackman was in sparkling form, rounding off a hat trick by the 45th minute, an effort that effectively killed off the match. Chris Bacon added a fourth for the Fire before Michael Coppo pulled one back for the home side but it was too little too late and the Razorbacks will finish the 2010 QSL in fourth place.

Bundaberg's late season revival suffered another blow as they were pegged back from 2-0 up by Whitsunday Miners. The Spirit have spoken of their ambition to avoid the wooden spoon and their match against the Miners was a must win occasion if they were to achieve their aim.

Bundaberg started the stronger of the two sides and with goals either side of half time from Nick Fitzgerald and Brett

LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts	
1	Sunshine Coast	20	17	1	2	61	26	35	52
2	Brisbane Strikers FC	20	13	3	4	53	19	34	42
3	FNQ Bulls	20	11	2	7	45	37	8	35
4	NQ Razorbacks	20	8	5	7	34	27	7	29
5	QASport	18	5	4	9	37	50	-13	19
6	Capricorn Cougars	19	5	3	11	23	38	-15	18
7	Whitsunday Miners	19	3	6	10	26	44	-18	15
8	Bundaberg Spirit	20	2	4	14	25	63	-38	10

RESULTS									
Brisbane Strikers 1 (Richter 79) v FNQ Bulls 2 (Plowman 60, Ruiz 83)									
Capricorn Cougars 1 (Davies 58) v QAS 1 (OG 78)									
Whitsunday Miners 2 (Nguyen 53, Zappone 67) v Bundaberg Spirit 2 (Fitzgerald 44, Kitching 50)									
NQ Razorbacks 2 (Searle 24pen, Coppo 75) v Sunshine Coast FC 4 (Blackman 13,38,45 Bacon 69)									

NEXT ROUND									
ROUND 21									
FNQ Bulls v Whitsunday Miners									
Sat 14 Aug 8:00pm									
QAS v Brisbane Strikers									
Sat 14 Aug 7:00pm									
Capricorn Cougars v NQ Razorbacks									
Sat 14 Aug 7:00pm									
Bundaberg Spirit v Sunshine Coast FC									
Sun 15 Aug 3:00pm									

Kitching a victory looked on the cards. Whitsunday rallied after half time however and Bundaberg wilted under the pressure as Kevin Nguyen pulled one back for the home team before Matthew Zappone levelled in the 67th minute. Despite having plenty of time remaining neither side could find a winner and Bundaberg were condemned to a third consecutive wooden spoon.

With the final four already decided upon Capricorn hosted QAS in a match between fifth and sixth at Ryan Park. Neither side has looked particularly potent in front of goal this season and it was no real surprise as they fought out a 1-1 draw.

Martyn Davies finally opened the scoring as he gave the Cougars the lead in the 58th minute. Capricorn looked like securing all three points but were brought undone in the 78th minute by a stroke of misfortune, an own goal giving QAS a share of the spoils.



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BLUE DEVILS HELD BY CANBERRA CITY AT TOP OF THE TABLE

By Russ Gibbs

Belconnen United were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors Canberra City in the latest round of the Gatorade Premier League at McKellar Park. The Blue Devils dominated most of the match and were guilty of wastefulness in front of goal throughout the match even after Dustin Wells capped a terrific team move to lift his ninth goal of the season over James Ward in the City goal to give them the first half lead.

Canberra City though is nothing if not resilient and proved once again what a menace they can be from set-pieces by drawing level four minutes from full-time. Misko Naumoski floated over a wonderful corner that as met forcefully by the head of David Dexter who struck his fifth goal of the season to earn City a share of the spoils.

Canberra FC moved two points clear at the top of the table after they comprehensively dismantled Woden Valley 6-1 at Woden Park on Sunday afternoon. Canberra FC, missing several of their first-team regulars, was too strong for mid-table Woden with Alex Castro (2), Guuven Can (2), Stephen Lee and Adam Adhami scoring for the visitors. Lukas Cole responded with a crackerjack strike for Woden to make the score 2-1 at one stage but Canberra FC ran out convincing winners in the end confidently claiming the three points.

A goal from Serdan Bircan in the 55th minute was enough to settle the match between Monaro Panthers and Cooma Tigers in favour of the Tigers at the Riverside Stadium in Queanbeyan. Bircan struck ten minutes into the second half to score the goal that ultimately sealed the three points for Gaby Wilk's team in a hard, even contest. The Tigers saw Dominique Labutte dismissed for a professional foul but the Panthers were unable to take advantage of the extra man and slip to fifth on the ladder after this narrow defeat.

Meanwhile a brace of goals from striker Mark Shields gave Tuggeranong United a 2-1 win over Goulburn Strikers at Cookbundoon. The Strikers, who were missing top-scorer Brody Willis, captain Andrew Aliffi, midfield lynchpin



ACT Premier League action from Canberra FC's (red) tussle with Belconnen earlier in the season.
PHOTO: PAUL LAU

Daniel Aliffi and regular 'keeper Jesse Bunt, amongst others battled hard and were rewarded with a late goal to substitute Antipas Ojwang but United held on to record a much-needed three points. Unfortunately for the visitors their

afternoon was soured with the dismissal of Alex Weber for two yellow card offences.

In the late afternoon kick off ANU FC and Canberra Olympic shared a 1-1 draw at Hawker Football Centre. Robbie Shroder

gave Olympic a first half lead in the 23rd minute but Tom Rogic levelled matters thirteen minutes from time for ANU FC. ANU FC's Tim Womack was later dismissed for a second yellow card offence.

NEXT ROUND

Round 16

Sat 14 Aug KO 6pm
Belconnen Utd v Canberra FC
McKellar Park

Sun 15 Aug KO 3pm
Goulburn Strikers v ANU FC
Cookbundoon

Sun 15 Aug KO 3pm
Tuggeranong Utd v Canberra City
Kambah 2-1

Sun 15 Aug KO 3pm
Cooma Tigers v Woden Valley
Nijong Oval

Sun 15 Aug KO 5pm
Canberra Olympic v Monaro Panthers
Hawker Football Centre

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	15	10	5	0	48	11	+37	35
2 Belconnen United	15	10	3	2	40	21	+19	33
3 Cooma Tigers	15	7	4	4	29	17	+12	25
4 Canberra City	14	7	2	5	25	20	+5	23
5 Monaro Panthers	15	7	2	6	24	26	-2	23
6 Canberra Olympic	15	4	5	6	19	26	-7	17
7 Woden Valley	14	5	0	9	21	36	-15	15
8 Tuggeranong United	15	4	3	8	21	44	-23	15
9 Goulburn Strikers	15	3	3	9	25	28	-3	12
10 ANU FC	15	3	1	11	16	39	-23	10

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	15	14	0	1	70	10	+60	42
2 Woden Valley	14	11	1	2	53	14	+39	33
3 Belconnen United	16	7	4	5	45	16	+29	25
4 Weston Creek	16	6	4	6	30	27	+3	22
5 Canberra FC	15	6	3	6	25	36	-11	22
6 Tuggeranong United	16	4	3	9	31	41	-9	15
7 ANU WFC	15	3	4	8	16	33	-17	13
8 Brindabella Blues	15	0	0	15	9	103	-94	0

ACT RESULTS

Belconnen United 1 (Dustin Wells 20')
Canberra City 1 (David Dexter 86')

Monaro Panthers 0 Cooma Tigers 1
(Serdan Bircan 55')

Woden Valley 1 (Lukas Cole 34')
Canberra FC 6 (Alex Castro 11', 55',
Stephen Lee 29', Guuven Can 43', 50',
Adam Adhami 90')

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Antipas Ojwang
90+2') Tuggeranong United 2 (Mark
Shields 65', 88')

Canberra Olympic 1 (Robbie Shroder
23') ANU FC 1 (Tom Rogic 77')

Premier Pathway League
Belconnen United 3 Canberra City 1
Goulburn Strikers 0 Tuggeranong
United 1
Monaro Panthers 2 Cooma Tigers 7
Woden Valley 0 Canberra FC 3
Canberra Olympic 1 ANU FC 0

Premier League under-18
Belconnen United 1 Canberra City 2
Goulburn Strikers 1 Tuggeranong
United 2
Monaro Panthers 1 Cooma Tigers 4
Woden Valley 1 Canberra FC 1
Canberra Olympic 1 ANU FC 6

Premier League under-16
Belconnen United 1 Canberra City 1
Monaro Panthers 1 Cooma Tigers 2
Woden Valley 0 Canberra FC 2
Goulburn Strikers 2 Tuggeranong
United 3
Canberra Olympic 4 ANU FC 1

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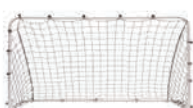
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Victorian Metropolitan League & Women's Results

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MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Ascot Vale 1 (A Barakat) Altona North 5 (J Bondin 3 A Whatmore M Aspolit), Oak Park 0 Tullamarine Jets 4 (M Al Kazimi 2 H Azar 2), Keon Park 1 (T Rousalis) Heidelberg Stars 1 (OM Ali), Northern Utd 1 (I Azman) Moreland Wolves 2 (M Moriaci P Richman), Yarra Jets Light Utd, Reserves: Ascot Vale 2 Altona North 1, Oak Park 2 Tullamarine Jets 3 (O Kurucu A Turkmen 2), Keon Park 1 Heidelberg Stars 7, Northern Utd 3 Moreland Wolves 1, Yarra Jets Light Utd

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Dandenong Warriors 2 (J Yong Yan Yin T Zaire) Caulfield Grammarians 2 (M Vassilopoulos M Davies), Ringwood City 0 Middle Park FC 3 (M Furness), St Kevins 1 (W Hughes) Old Mentonians 1 (M Appleby), Parkmore 0 Endeavour Hills 0, Reserves: Dandenong Warriors 6 Caulfield Grammarians 2, Ringwood City 0 Middle Park FC 6, St Kevins 1 Old Mentonians 1, Parkmore Endeavour Hills,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 1: South Springvale 1 (M Baticin) Ballarat & District 0, Monbulk 0 Bayswater Strikers 0, South Yarra 0 Whitehorse Utd 2 (E Turner 2), Brighton 0 Uni. of Melbourne 2 (K Walters), Reserves: South Springvale 4 Ballarat Lady Devils 1, Monbulk 1 Bayswater Strikers 2, South Yarra 0 Whitehorse Utd 1, Brighton 0 Uni. of Melbourne 3,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Western Suburbs 0 North Geelong Warriors 3 (M Juric A Berginc D Marinic), Melbourne Bears 0 La Trobe University 4, Western Eagles 2 (B Kean C Silwinski) Darebin Falcons 1 (M Allen), Cairnlea 1 (K Cirav) FC Bulleen Lions 0,

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: North Caulfield 0 Mornington 0, Mooroolbark 0 Berwick City 2 (S Anthony SL Umit), Albert Park 3 (S Baeck S Dillon H Saur) Noble Park 0, Monash University 0 Southern Suburbs 3 (K Sercia 2 K Larby)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Melton 7 (A Aquilina) Old Carey 1 (L Smith), Kyneton District 0 Eltham Redbacks 4 (J Henry L Peric 2), Sunshine George Cross 1 (L Galdamez) Maribymong Utd 2 (F Mandiola), Brunswick Zebras 3 (J Todorovic R Staples 2) Diamond Valley Utd 4 (A McMillan 2 KA Portz LN Whitehouse), Yarra Jets 5 (K Carter T Nguyen 2 a callaghan 2) Keilor Park 6 (M Emond 3 A Currie)

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Ashburton 0 Langwarrin 0, Beaumaris 2 (M Lee Gow G Randall) Croydon City Arrows 4 (B White C Mitchell S Foden 2), Seaford Utd 0 Knox City 0, South Melbourne 13 (L Christoforou I Saglam S Berreck 4 D Kallianis 3 EK La Greca 3) East Bentleigh 0, Box Hill Inter 4 (S Skaras 2 J Tay) Endeavour Utd 1

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE NORTH-WEST: Melbourne Knights 4 (S Zilic) Tullamarine Jets 3 (M Upward 3), Brunswick Zebras 6 (EK Johns 2 R King 2 BA McPherson R Wheen) Plenty Valley Lions 1, Watsonia Heights 0 Fitzroy City 1, Brunswick City 9 Yarra Jets 0

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE SOUTH-EAST: Monash University 1 (A Juric) Croydon City Arrows 2 (OJ Buchanan 2), Kingston City 1 Dandenong City 1, Skye Utd 0 Endeavour Hills 3

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE CENTRAL: Sandringham 5 (D Tracey K O'Brien 4) Uni. of Melbourne 2 (J Kelly J Sherman), Sydenham Park 1 (S Bojkovski) Elwood City 1, Albert Park 1 (A Sargent) Bayside Argonauts 8 (CA Brunton 3 M Stathopoulos 2 A McFadden), Swinburne University WSC 0 Port Melbourne 1 (N Orfanos), Monash University 0 Whittlesea Zebras 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 1: Clelland Utd 1 Doveton 1, Kyneton District 4 (S Harman 2 Z Plant N Matricardi) Juventus Old Boys 0, South Yarra 8 Southern Suburbs 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 NORTH-WEST: Melbourne University 2 Collingwood City 2, Upfield 3 Glenroy 0, Keilor Park 3 Brunswick City 0

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 2 SOUTH-EAST: Nunawading City FC 3 Old Camberwell Grammar 0, Boroondara Eagles 3 Old Melbourneians 1, South Yarra 0 Old Scotch 2, Caulfield Grammarians 6 Berwick City 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 NORTH-WEST: Uni. of Melbourne 3 Melton 1, Kyneton District 3 Northcote City 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Plenty Valley Lions 4, Hoppers Crossing 2

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 3 SOUTH-EAST: Old Trinity Grammarians 1 Monash University 8, Brandon Park 5 Riversdale 2, RMIT Redbacks 6 Old Melbourneians 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 NORTH-WEST: Kyneton District 3 Diamond Valley Utd 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 4 SOUTH-EAST: South Yarra 4 Old Scotch 3, RMIT Redbacks 1 Beaumaris 4, Old Melbourneians 4 Monash University 1

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 NORTH-WEST: Kyneton District 1 (J Sartori) North Sunshine Eagles 1, Heidelberg Utd 2 Uni. of Melbourne 3, Melbourne Bears 6 Melbourne University 0,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIV 5 SOUTH-EAST: Frankston Pines 8 Old Carey 0, Keysborough 1 Old Brighton Grammarians 2,

MENS THIRDS LEAGUE DIVISION 6: Moreland Utd 3 Carlton Youth 1, Sandringham City 1 4 Epping City 3, Sandringham City 2 5 Old Scotch 2,

MENS MASTERS NORTH-WEST: Avondale Heights 0 Whittlesea Utd 2,

MENS MASTERS CENTRAL: Caulfield Cobras 1 Juventus Old Boys 4, Collingwood City 3 Ashburton 1,

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West
		P W D L F A PT	
Moreland Wolves		17 11 3 3 43 17 36	
Tullamarine Jets		17 9 5 3 37 18 32	
Heidelberg Stars		17 9 4 4 28 21 31	
Light Utd		16 8 4 4 27 23 28	
Yarra Jets		16 7 4 5 37 27 25	
Altona North		17 6 5 6 34 35 23	
Oak Park		17 6 6 5 39 30 18	
Keon Park		17 4 3 10 27 55 15	
Northern Utd		17 2 4 11 19 34 10	
Ascot Vale		17 1 4 12 15 46 7	

Mens	Metropolitan	League	North-West	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Heidelberg Stars		17 11 5 1 59 28 38		
Northern Utd		17 12 1 4 47 27 37		
Light Utd		16 11 2 3 47 23 35		
Moreland Wolves		17 10 2 5 51 26 32		
Tullamarine Jets		17 8 4 5 42 35 28		
Oak Park		17 8 1 8 36 37 25		
Yarra Jets		16 4 5 7 38 36 16		
Ascot Vale		17 4 3 10 26 44 15		
Altona North		17 3 3 11 25 49 11		
Keon Park		17 0 0 17 21 87 0		

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Middle Park FC		14 10 3 1 40 12 33		
Dandenong Warriors		14 7 5 2 30 21 26		
Parkmore		15 8 2 5 27 23 26		
Harrisfield Hurricanes		14 7 4 3 32 23 25		
Ringwood City		15 6 2 7 22 35 20		
Old Mentonians		14 3 6 5 18 19 15		
Endeavour Hills		16 3 5 8 22 28 14		
Caulfield Grammarians		15 2 6 7 19 27 12		
St Kevins		15 2 3 10 21 43 9		

Mens	Metropolitan	League	South-East	Reserves
		P W D L F A PT		
Middle Park FC		14 13 1 0 64 7 40		
Dandenong Warriors		14 9 2 3 37 26 29		
Ringwood City		15 8 4 3 31 25 28		
Harrisfield Hurricanes		14 5 3 6 25 23 18		
St Kevins		15 3 6 6 18 25 15		
Old Mentonians		14 4 3 7 29 37 15		
Endeavour Hills		15 4 1 10 18 49 13		
Parkmore		14 3 3 8 19 33 12		
Caulfield Grammarians		15 3 3 9 27 43 12		

Womens	State	League	Div	1
		P W D L F A PT		
Bundoora Utd		14 12 0 2 47 13 36		
Doncaster Rovers		14 10 3 1 41 10 33		
Ballarat & District		15 9 3 3 41 16 29		
Uni. of Melbourne		15 9 1 5 34 20 28		
Bayswater Strikers		15 7 2 6 37 29 23		
South Springvale		15 7 1 7 27 24 22		
Monbulk		15 4 5 6 15 16 17		
Whitehorse Utd		15 3 3 9 24 41 12		
South Yarra		15 2 0 13 11 65 6		
Brighton		15 1 2 12 8 51 4		

Boys Central - North 13B: Port Melbourne Heidelberg Stars 1, FC Clifton Hill 0 Yarraville Glory 5, Maribymong Greens 9 Mitchell Rangers 0, Plenty Valley Lions 1 Malvern City 2, Bundoora Utd Watsonia Heights , Yarra Jets 1 4 Eltham Redback FC 0, Yarra Jets 2 3 Whittlesea Ranges FC 2

Boys Central - North 14 A: Richmond 2 3 Bundoora Utd 1, South Melbourne Preston Lions , Diamond Valley Utd Whittlesea Ranges FC , Northcote City Yarra Jets

Boys Central - North 14 B: Whittlesea Ranges FC 0 Heidelberg Stars 0, Plenty Valley Lions 0 Heidelberg Utd 7, South Yarra 3 Richmond 0, Bundoora Utd Watsonia Heights , Keon Park 4 Alphington 0

Boys Central - North 15 A: Preston Lions Yarra Jets , Richmond 0 Bundoora Utd 2, South Melbourne Banyule City , FC Clifton Hill 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC 1, Heidelberg Stars Bye

Boys Central - North 15 B: Diamond Valley Utd 1 9 Malvern City 1, Diamond Valley Utd 2 1 Northcote City 3, Maribymong Greens 9 Richmond 1, Melbourne Lions South Melbourne , Bundoora Utd 9 Alphington 1

Boys Central - North 16 A: Richmond 1 8 Bundoora Utd 1, South Melbourne Richmond 2 , FC Clifton Hill 6 Whittlesea Ranges FC 0, Bye Preston Lions , Malvern City 1 Epping City 1

Boys Central - North 16 B: Yarraville Glory Bundoora Utd 1, Richmond 1 Yarraville Glory 2, Yarra Jets 3 Heidelberg Utd 1

Boys East - North East 12 A: FC Bulleen Lions 8 Eastern Lions 0, Ashburton 1 Knox City 0, Monash City 2 Box Hill Inter 2, Doncaster Rovers 2 Glen Waverley 1

Boys East - North East 12 B: Ashburton 2 Nunawading City FC 2, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Eltham Redback FC 2, Manningham 1 Boroondara Eagles 2, Riverside 2 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Doncaster Rovers 1 Mooroolbark 5

Boys East - North East 12 C: Bye Sherbrooke Rangers , Boronia Knox Utd , Eltham Redback FC, Doncaster Rovers , Knox City 2 DOC Utd 1, Waverley Victory 0 FC Bulleen Lions 0

Boys East - North East 12 D: Oakleigh Cannons 3 Riversdale 3, Ashburton Whitehorse Utd , Boroondara Eagles 2 Glen Waverley 1, Croydon City Arrows Ashburton , East Kew Bye

Boys East - North East 12 E: Mooroolbark 0 Boronia 7, Bunyip & District Soccer Club Montrose , Bye Ashburton

Womens	State	League	Div	1	Reserves
			P W D L F A PT		
Doncaster Rovers			14 14 0 0 53 1 42		
Bundoora Utd			14 11 2 1 56 8 35		
Uni. of Melbourne			15 9 4 2 44 16 31		
South Springvale			14 7 3 4 25 20 24		
Bayswater Strikers			13 7 1 5 37 26 22		
Monbulk			15 5 3 7 19 24 18		
Whitehorse Utd			15 4 1 10 17 36 13		
Brighton			15 1 7 7 10 40 9		
Ballarat Lady Devils			14 1 3 10 9 32 5		
South Yarra			15 0 2 13 5 72 2		

Womens	State	League	Div	2	North-West
			P W D L F A PT		
Cairnlea			14 11 3 0 46 9 36		
Western Eagles			15 11 1 3 55 11 34		
La Trobe University			13 10 0 3 44 12 30		
FC Bulleen Lions			13 9 2 2 38 8 29		
North Geelong Warriors			15 9 1 5 34 12 28		
Western Suburbs			15 5 1 9 18 37 16		
Darebin Falcons			14 3 1 10 16 45 10		
Melbourne Bears			14 1 1 12 5 67 4		
Whittlesea Ranges FC			14 0 1 13 10 60 1		

Womens	State	League	Div	2	South-East
			P W D L F A PT		
Albert Park			15 11 1 3 50 15 34		
Sandringham			14 8 5 1 32 11 29		
Berwick City			15 8 1 6 36 23 25		
Southern Suburbs			15 7 4 4 26 23 25		
Noble Park			15 7 1 7 33 35 22		
Mornington			15 4 6 5 16 20 18		
Mooroolbark			15 4 4 7 16 33 16		
Ashburton			14 3 5 6 15 26 14		
North Caulfield			15 3 3 9 20 43 12		
Monash University			15 1 6 8 17 32 9		

Womens	State	League	Div	3	North-West
			P W D L F A PT		
Keilor Park			15 14 0 1 98 28 42		
Yarra Jets			15 12 1 2 51 20 37		
Brunswick Zebras			15 10 3 2 41 22 33		
Diamond Valley Utd			15 9 1 5 43 31 28		
Eltham Redbacks			15 6 2 7 39 28 20		
Melton			14 6 1 7 25 32 19		
Sunshine George Cross			15 5 2 8 35 42 15		
Old Carey			15 4 0 11 25 63 12		
Kyneton District			15 2 0 13 11 57 6		
Maribymong Utd			14 1 0 13 11 58 3		

Womens	State	League	Div	3	South-East
			P W D L F A PT		
Box Hill Inter			15 12 1 2 65 14 37		
Seaford Utd			15 11 2 2 60 7 35		
South Melbourne			15 11 2 2 74 23 35		
Croydon City Arrows			15 8 2 5 34 23 26		
Langwarrin			15 6 5 4 39 26 23		
Knox City			15 3 7 5 21 29 16		
Endeavour Utd			15 5 1 9 37 49 16		
Ashburton			15 4 2 9 33 48 14		
Beaumaris			15 2 1 12 29 81 7		
East Bentleigh			15 1 1 13 11 103 4		

Womens	Metropolitan	League	North-West
		P W D L F A PT	
Brunswick City		15 15 0 0 124 7 45	
Brunswick Zebras		15 11 0 4 68 36 33	
Melbourne Knights		15 9 3 3 53 18 30	
Mitchell Rangers		14 9 2 3 40 17 29	
Fitzroy City		15 8 3 4 37 17 27	
Tullamarine Jets		15 5 1 9 38 41 16	
Watsonia Heights		15 5 1 9 24 43 16	
Plenty Valley Lions		15 5 0 10 18 54 15	
Yarra Jets		15 2 0 13 22 81 6	
Northern Roosters		14 0 0 14 31 13 0	

Womens	Metropolitan	League	South-East
		P W D L F A PT	
Berwick City		14 14 0 0 84 12 42	
Dandenong City		14 11 1 2 89 15 34	
Kingston City		15 8 4 3 42 18 28	
Endeavour Hills		15 8 1 6 53 31 25	
Eltham Redbacks		14 6 3 5 22 27 21	
Mooroolbark		14 6 2 6 26 35 20	
Croydon City Arrows		15 5 1 9 22 47 16	
Skye Utd		14 4 1 9 15 41 13	
Sandringham		14 3 1 10 14 72 10	
Monash University		15 0 0 15 7 76 0	

Boys East - North East 13 A: Knox City 2 Oakleigh Cannons 0, FC Bulleen Lions Ashburton , Eastern Lions 0 Box Hill Inter 3, Doncaster Rovers 3 Whitehorse Utd 2, Monash City 3 Knox Utd 0

Boys East - North East 13 B: FC Bulleen Lions 1 Nunawading City FC 4, Box Hill Inter 3 Sherbrooke Rangers 2, Brandon Park Ringwood City , Croydon City Arrows Boroondara Eagles , Eltham Redback FC Doncaster Rovers

Boys East - North East 13 C: Oakleigh Cannons 2 Manningham 2, Ashburton 1 Glen Waverley 2, Boroondara Eagles 0 FC Bulleen Lions 4, Croydon City Arrows 0 Waverley Wanderers 0, Glen Waverley 4 Whitehorse Utd 0, Knox City 4 Cardinia Utd 2, Mooroolbark 0 DOC Utd 3

Boys East - North East 14 A: FC Bulleen Lions 17 Ashburton 0, Riversdale Box Hill Inter , Doncaster Rovers 7 Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Knox City 1 Oakleigh Cannons 1, Monash City 1 Nunawading City FC 3

Boys East - North East 14 B: Boroondara Eagles 1 Oakleigh Cannons 4, Croydon City Arrows 3 Doncaster Rovers 0, Mooroolbark 2 FC Bulleen Lions 8, Whitehorse Utd 2 Glen Waverley 1

Boys East - North East 14 C: Eastern Lions 5 Eltham Redback FC 1, Boroondara Eagles 4 Riversdale 4, Croydon City Arrows Ashburton , Doncaster Rovers 0 Ringwood City 1, Knox City 6 Glen Waverley 1

Boys East - North East 14 D: Bunyip & District Soccer Club DOC Utd , Boronia Ashburton , Glen Waverley 3 Whitehorse Utd 0, Rowville Eagles Doncaster Rovers

Boys East - North East 15 A: Croydon City Arrows Box Hill Inter , Doncaster Rovers 1 Riversdale 1, Knox City 0 Oakleigh Cannons 4, Monash City 9 Glen Waverley 0

Boys East - North East 15 B: Manningham 2 Ringwood City 1, Eastern Lions 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 4, Boroondara Eagles Knox Utd , Croydon City Arrows 6 Ashburton 0, Bye FC Bulleen Lions

Boys East - North East 15 C: Riversdale 2 Doncaster Rovers 2, Brandon Park 1 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Eltham Redback FC Rowville Eagles , Whitehorse Utd 1 DOC Utd 5

Boys East - North East 15 D: Ashburton 0 Boronia 2, Boroondara Eagles 10 Eastern Lions 1, Glen Waverley 1 Manningham 3, Knox Utd 1 Mooroolbark 2 , Knox Utd 2 2 Mooroolbark 1 3

Womens	Met
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Victorian Junior Results & Ladders

Boys South 12 A: Bye Berwick City , Dandenong City 1 South Eastern Piranhas 5, Dandenong Thunder 0 Peninsula 0, Mornington 7 Doveton 1

Boys South 12 B: Baxter Berwick City , Doveton 3 Peninsula 0, Hampton Park Utd Endeavour Utd , Langwarrin 2 Mornington 0

Boys South 12 C: Keysborough Berwick City , Peninsula 1 Berwick City 2, Mornington Casey Panthers , Westernport Heatherton Utd , James Cook FC 1 Carrum Utd 2

Boys South 13 A: Dandenong City Berwick City , Doveton 0 South Eastern Piranhas 3, Hampton Park Utd Langwarrin , Springvale White Eagles Mornington

Boys South 13 B: Endeavour Utd 0 Southern Stars 1, Langwarrin 7 Carrum Utd 2, Peninsula 2 Berwick City 3, White Star Dandenong Casey Comets , Mornington 4 Baxter 1

Boys South 14 A: Doveton 0 South Eastern Piranhas 3, Hampton Park Utd Berwick City , Peninsula 1 Dandenong Thunder 3, South Springvale 0 Casey Comets 1, Mornington Bye

Boys South 14 B: Doveton Seaford Utd , Langwarrin 3 Keysborough 6, Lyndale Utd 1 Berwick City 2, Peninsula 2 Carrum Utd 0

Boys South 14 C: Casey Comets 2 Hampton Park Utd 2, Casey Panthers 3 Baxter 0, Dandenong City Rosebud , Westernport 0 Dandenong Warriors 7

Boys South 15 A: Doveton 1 South Eastern Piranhas 3, Endeavour Utd Dandenong Thunder , Keysborough Dandenong City , Peninsula 2 Berwick City 3, Springvale White Eagles Bye

Boys South 15 B: Casey Comets 3 Baxter 2, Endeavour Utd 16 Frankston Pines 0, Langwarrin 0 Carrum Utd 3, Mornington 7 Peninsula 0, James Cook FC 2 Berwick City 0

Boys South 16 A: Keysborough Casey Comets , Langwarrin Bye , South Eastern Piranhas 1 Peninsula 4, White Star Dandenong Hampton Park Utd , Mornington 0 Berwick City 6

Boys West 12 A: Brimbank Stallions Altona City , Green Gully Cavaliers Ballarat Academy of Soccer , Melbourne Knights 0 North Geelong Warriors 0, Keilor Park Hoppers Crossing , Sydenham Park 1 St Albans Saints 2

Boys West 12 B: Green Gully Cavaliers Bell Park , Bye Altona City , Keilor Park 1 Cairnlea 0, Keilor Park 2 1 Sunshine Heights 0, Laverton Park 2 Spring Hills 0

Boys West 13 A: Green Gully Cavaliers Keilor Park , Sunshine George Cross 3 Altona City 1, Melbourne Knights 2 Brimbank Stallions 1, Brimbank City 6 St Albans Saints 1, Werribee City 2 Hoppers Crossing 0

Boys West 13 B: Green Gully Cavaliers Brimbank Stallions , Laverton Park 1 Altona East Phoenix 1, Williamstown 0 Cairnlea 1, GRFA 7 Keilor Park 0, Bye Ballarat Academy of Soccer

Boys West 13 C: Williamstown 1 Hoppers Crossing 0, Sunshine George Cross 9 Oak Park SC 0, Westvale Spring Hills , Bye North Geelong Warriors

Boys West 14 A: Green Gully Cavaliers Altona Magic , Melbourne Knights 1 Cairnlea 0, Keilor Park 5 Hoppers Crossing 0, GRFA 6 Altona City 1, Bye Ballarat Academy of Soccer

Boys West 14 B: Brimbank Stallions 2 St Albans Saints 1, Green Gully Cavaliers Bye , Sydenham Park 2 Keilor Park 3, Williamstown Cairnlea , Keilor Wolves 0 Sunshine Heights 2

Boys West 14 C: Altona City 0 Melton 3, Satellite City Utd 1 Werribee City 9, Western Eagles Bye , Williamstown 4 Point Cook FC 0

Boys West 15 A: Green Gully Cavaliers Brimbank Stallions , Sunshine George Cross 0 Altona City 1, Werribee City 1 Hoppers Crossing 2, Williamstown 1 Keilor Park 2, North Lions 3 Sydenham Park 6

Boys West 16 A: Green Gully Cavaliers Keilor Park , Sydenham Park 7 Altona East Phoenix 1, Werribee City 0 Sunshine Heights 0, Westgate Sunshine George Cross

Boys West 16 B: Melton 0 St Albans Saints 6, Satellite City Utd Keilor Park , Western Eagles Bye , Williamstown Bye , Spring Hills Hoppers Crossing

Girls Central - North East - East 18: Richmond Bye , Knox City 1 Boroondara Eagles 3, Whitehorse Utd 1 2 Whitehorse Utd 2 5, Yarra Jets Diamond Valley Utd

Girls North West 12 A: Whitehorse Utd 2 Boroondara Eagles 2, Richmond 0 Bundoora Utd 1, Ashburton 1 Banyule City 0, Richmond 2 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Box Hill Inter 3 St Albans Saints 0

Girls North West 12 B: Essendon Royals Green Gully Cavaliers , Watsonia Heights 3 Brunswick Zebras 0, Diamond Valley Utd 1 Kensington JGSC 0, Pascoe Vale 2 Alphington 2, Eltham Redback FC Keilor Park

Girls South East - South 18 : East Bentleigh 1 2 Casey Comets 0, East Bentleigh 2 1 Hampton Park Utd 1, Springvale White Eagles Bye , Brighton 2 Langwarrin 0

Girls South East 12 A: Peninsula Bye , Ringwood City 1 North Caulfield , Sherbrooke Rangers 0 Sandringham 5, Brighton 2 Berwick City 0

Girls South East 12 B: Waverley Victory 4 Bayside Knights 0, Sandringham 0 Glen Waverley 0, Brighton 0 Aspendale 1, Casey Panthers Bye

Girls West - North West - North 18: Keilor Wolves 2 Keilor Park 1, Gisborne 0 Epping City 8, Hoppers Crossing 1 Ballarat & District 9, Sunbury Utd Bundoora Utd , Pascoe Vale 6 Brunswick Zebras 1

Girls Central - North East - East 13-14 A: Boroondara Eagles 1 FC Bulleen Lions 3, Ashburton 5 Malvern City 0, Oakleigh Cannons 2 Boroondara Eagles 0, FC Clifton Hill 4 Croydon City Arrows 1

Girls Central - North East - East 13-14 B: Ashburton 1 3 Knox City 0, South Melbourne Croydon City Arrows , Ashburton 2 3 Glen Waverley 0, Box Hill Inter 2 Kensington JGSC 0, Eltham Redback FC Sherbrooke Rangers , Boroondara Eagles FC Bulleen Lions

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 A: Ashburton 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Mooroolbark 4 Kensington JGSC 0, Knox City 4 Doncaster Rovers 0, Whitehorse Utd 14 Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Croydon City Arrows Boroondara Eagles

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 B: Boroondara Eagles 1 0 Alphington 0, South Melbourne 14 Nunawading City FC 0, Ashburton 2 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Boroondara Eagles 2 Box Hill Inter

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 C: Brandon Park 1 Greenvale Utd 0, Watsonia Heights 5 DOC Utd 0, Waverley Victory 1 Glen Waverley 5, Oakleigh Cannons 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1

Girls Central - North East - East 15-16 D: Eastern Lions 2 South Yarra 0, Boronia Croydon City Arrows , Yarra Jets 3 Eltham Redback FC 4

Girls South East - South 13-14 A: Peninsula 0 North Caulfield 1, Bye Sandringham , Carrum Utd 1 Hampton 1, Brighton 1 Berwick City 1

Girls South East - South 13-14 B: Carrum Utd 4 Mornington 3, North Caulfield 0 Brighton 1 2, Sandringham 2 Hampton , Southern Stars Sandringham 1 , Brighton 2 3 Casey Panthers 1

Girls South East - South 13-14 C: Endeavour Utd 2 Langwarrin 5, Sandringham 5 East Bentleigh 0, Rosebud Seaford Utd , Oakleigh Cannons 2 Glen Eira 2, Yarra Jets 2 Mornington 1, White Star Dandenong Berwick City

Girls South East - South 15-16 A: North Caulfield 0 Dandenong City 4, Carrum Utd 8 Glen Eira 0, Southern Stars Sandringham , Mornington 3 Baxter 1, Peninsula Bye

Girls South East - South 15-16 B: Bayside Knights 1 Peninsula 8, Brighton Casey Panthers , North Caulfield Sandringham , Carrum Utd 4 Noble Park 0, Langwarrin 4 Mornington 1

Girls West - North West - North 13-14 A: Keilor Park 6 Banyule City 0, Watsonia Heights 0 Bundoora Utd 4, Sunbury Utd 0 St Albans Saints 6, Pascoe Vale 0 Brunswick Zebras 1, Essendon Royals Green Gully Cavaliers

Girls West - North West - North 13-14 B: Cairnlea 0 Williamstown 2, Diamond Valley Utd 2 Keilor Park 0, Yarra Jets 3 Sydenham Park 1, Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras

Girls West - North West - North 15-16 A: Sydenham Park 3 Heidelberg Utd 2, Bye Keilor Park , Bundoora Utd Banyule City , Whittlesea Ranges FC 2 Brunswick Zebras 1, Essendon Royals 7 Werribee City 1

Girls West - North West - North 15-16 B: Bacchus Marsh Bye , Brimbank City 0 Watsonia Heights 7, Essendon Royals 0 Spring Hills 5, Sydenham Park 5 Whittlesea Utd 0, Brunswick Zebras 1 Keilor Park 0, Altona City 2 Cairnlea 2, Brimbank Stallions 7 North City Lions 0

Central SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sun): South Melbourne Melbourne Athletic JFC , Port Melbourne 1 Yarraville Glory 1, Malvern City 1 Yarra Jets 4, Alphington South Yarra , Melbourne Lions FC Clifton Hill

Central SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : South Melbourne 2 Yarra Jets , Port Melbourne Bye , Malvern City 0 FC Clifton Hill 5, FC Demons South Melbourne 1

East SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sat): Montrose Glen Waverley 3 , Glen Waverley 2 2 Boronia 1, Croydon City Arrows 2 Knox City 3, Mooroolbark 2 Glen Waverley 1 7

East SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sun) : Croydon City Arrows 4 Waverley Victory 0, Knox Utd 1 Ringwood City , Knox Utd 2 0 Oakleigh Cannons 3 5, Montrose Oakleigh Cannons 1 , Oakleigh Cannons 2 5 Eastern Lions 0

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Glen Waverley 1 0 Glen Waverley 2 1, Croydon City Arrows 4 Mooroolbark 2 1, Mooroolbark 1 1 Eastern Lions 1

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : Oakleigh Cannons 2 10 Cardinia Utd 1, Eastern Lions 1 Oakleigh Cannons 1 0, Brandon Park 2 Glen Waverley 2, Knox Utd 1 Ringwood City 6

East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joneys (Sun) : Oakleigh Cannons 2 1 Oakleigh Cannons 1 4, Monash City 5 Cardinia Utd 0, Waverley Victory 3 Waverley Wanderers 0

North East SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sun): Eltham North 1 DOC Utd , Eltham North 2 Manningham 1 , Wonga Park Wizards JFC Eltham North 3 , Ashburton 3 3 Ashburton 1 3, Ashburton 2 Manningham 2

North East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Lime (Sat) : Riversdale 1 Boroondara Eagles 6, Ashburton 2 2 Doncaster Rovers 1 5, Nunawading City FC 5 Ashburton 10, Doncaster Rovers 2 3 Box Hill Inter 0, Whitehorse Utd 2 FC Bulleen Lions 4

North East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Red (Sat): Boroondara Eagles 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Ashburton 2 2 Doncaster Rovers 0, Whitehorse Utd 10 Box Hill Inter 5, Whitehorse Utd 2 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2 1, Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton 1

North East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : FC Bulleen Lions 1 3 Nunawading City FC 2 1, FC Bulleen Lions 2 Ashburton 1, Ashburton 3 0 Manningham 4, Eltham North 1 Nunawading City FC 1, Eltham North 2 1 Ashburton 2 1

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sat): Richmond 1 2 FC Demons 1, Richmond 2 6 Ashburton 1, Boroondara Eagles 1 Riversdale 0, Doncaster Rovers 2 Box Hill Inter 2, Whitehorse Utd 1 0 Whitehorse Utd 2 5, Bye FC Bulleen Lions

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Blue (Sat): Ashburton Bye , Epping City 1 Richmond 1 3, Richmond 2 5 Doncaster Rovers 0, FC Bulleen Lions 1 3 Boroondara Eagles 0, FC Bulleen Lions 2 5 Elwood City 1

North East-Central SSF Boys 11 Kang Yellow (Sat): Bye Richmond 1 , Doncaster Rovers 3 Riversdale 2, Richmond 2 4 Ashburton 2, FC Bulleen Lions 1 Whitehorse Utd , FC Bulleen Lions 2 0 Box Hill Inter 5

North East-East SSF Girls 11 Pink (Sun): Oakleigh Cannons 5 Ashburton 1 0, Knox Utd DOC Utd , Ringwood City Boroondara Eagles , Box Hill Inter Ashburton 2

North East-East SSF Girls 11 Purple (Sun): Mooroolbark 0 Croydon City Arrows 5, Ringwood City Ashburton 2 , Boroondara Eagles 1 Ashburton 1 3

North SSF Boys 11 Joneys (Sun): Whittlesea Ranges FC 0 Northcote City 5, Banyule City Lalor Utd , Diamond Valley Utd 4 Mitchell Rangers 4, Watsonia Heights 5 Bundoora Utd 1 4

North SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun): Whittlesea Ranges 1 0 Northcote City 5, Banyule City 0 Preston Lions 1 1, Lalor 2 Whittlesea Ranges 2 5, Preston Lions 2 1 Bundoora Utd 1 6, Bundoora Utd 2 Epping City

North West SSF Boys 11 Joneys Orange (Sun) : Brunswick City 0 Flemington Eagles 5, Fawkner Pascoe Vale 1 , Gisborne 1 Meadow Park Eagles 5, Pascoe Vale 2 3 Essendon Royals 3, Sunbury Utd 2 Oak Park SC 2

North West SSF Boys 11 Joneys Purple (Sun) : Flemington Eagles 3 Brunswick City 1, Meadow Park Eagles 5 Moreland City 0, North City Lions 3 Brunswick Zebras 1, Hume City 0 Pascoe Vale 0, Light Utd Essendon Royals

North West SSF Boys 11 Joneys Red (Sun): North City Lions 1 Upfield 3, Sunbury Utd 3 Moreland Utd 0, Hume City Pascoe Vale , Essendon Royals 1 Light Utd 6

North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Purple (Sun): Essendon Royals 3 Moreland City 0, North City

Lions Brunswick Zebras 1 , Brunswick Zebras 2 Moreland Utd , Melbourne Phoenix 2 Avondale Heights 1, Flemington Eagles 1 Brunswick City 6

North West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Red (Sun): Essendon Royals 1 6 Moreland City 1, Fawkner 4 Gisborne 0, Light Utd 1 Upfield 2, Brunswick Zebras 1 Pascoe Vale 3, Keilor Wolves 5 Essendon Royals 2 0

North West-North-Central SSF Girls 11 (Sun): South Melbourne 1 0 Kensington JGSC 4, FC Clifton Hill Bye , Greenvale Utd Banyule City 2 , South Melbourne 2 Yarra Jets , Essendon Royals 0 Banyule City 1 5, Fawkner 1 South Yarra 3

North-Central SSF Boys 11 Joneys/Kangaroos (Sun) : FC Clifton Hill Yarra Jets , Bye South Melbourne , Watsonia Heights 0 Sporting Whittlesea 10, Bundoora Utd 1 Whittlesea Ranges FC , Bundoora Utd 2 Banyule City

South East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Blue (Sat): Brighton 3 6 Dandenong Warriors 5, East Bentleigh 0 Brighton 2 3, Brighton 1 0 Sandringham City 4, Beaumaris 1 5 Hampton 1 1, Beaumaris 2 1 Bayside Argonauts 2, Hampton 2 5 Glen Eira 1

South East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Green (Sat): Glen Eira 1 Sandringham City 2 , Glen Eira 2 Sandringham City 1 , Glen Eira 3 Bye , Brighton 2 5 Beaumaris 2 2, East Bentleigh 1 5 Beaumaris 1 0, Brighton 3 1 Brighton 1 1

South East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Green (Sun) : Bentleigh Greens 2 Sandringham City 7, North Caulfield 3 Brighton 4, Bye Southern Suburbs , Sandringham City 2 Aspendale 2, Brighton 1 North Caulfield 4

South East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Orange (Sun): East Bentleigh 4 North Caulfield 2 0, Beaumaris Bye , Aspendale 2 Bayside Knights 7, Sandringham City 3 Brighton 2

South East SSF Boys 11 Joneys Yellow (Sun): East Bentleigh 4 North Caulfield 1 1, Hampton 2 Bayside Knights 0, Brighton 5 North Caulfield 2 0, Sandringham City 3 Caulfield Cobras 0

South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sat): Hampton 3 Sandringham City 1 3, Bayside Argonauts Doveton , Sandringham City 2 3 Brighton 1 3, Bye Brighton 2

South East SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos (Sun) : Bentleigh Greens 0 North Caulfield 2 5, Hampton 3 Bayside Knights 2, Sandringham City 1 5 Aspendale 0, Sandringham City 2 1 North Caulfield 1 5

South East-South SSF Girls 11 Joneys Pink (Sun): East Bentleigh 5 North Caulfield 1 0, North Caulfield 2 1 Hampton 1, Sandringham 1 Sandringham 2 , Bayside Argonauts Brighton 1 , Brighton 2 0 Mornington 4

South East-Sth SSF Girls 11 Kang Purple (Sun): North Caulfield 3 Sandringham 2 3, Beaumaris 0 Brighton 4, Mornington 1 Sandringham 1 0

South SSF Boys 11 Joneys Blue (Sun): Carrum Utd Berwick City , Doveton 3 Noble Park 2, Langwarrin 0 Hampton Park Utd 0, Peninsula 1 5 Peninsula 2 6, Mornington 0 Endeavour Utd 2, Casey Panthers 6 Casey Comets 1

South SSF Boys 11 Joneys Lime (Sun) : Dandenong Thunder Langwarrin , Hampton Park Utd Berwick City 1 , Peninsula 0 Heatherton Utd 4, South Springvale 0 Berwick City 2 4, Springvale White Eagles Casey Panthers

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Blue (Sun): Southern Stars 0 South Eastern Piranhas 5, Langwarrin 0 Carrum Utd 2, Peninsula 0 Mornington 4, Springvale White Eagles 5 Casey Panthers 0, Dandenong Thunder Berwick City

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Lime (Sun) : Casey Comets 2 Mornington 1, Endeavour Utd Berwick City , Keysborough Langwarrin , South Eastern Piranhas 1 Carrum Utd 1, South Springvale 2 Hampton Park Utd 1

South SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joneys (Sun) : Doveton 2 Mornington 2 0, Langwarrin 1 Casey Comets 6, South Springvale 1 Berwick City 2 4, Mornington 1 2 Peninsula 4, James Cook FC 1 Berwick City 1 3

West SSF Boys 11 Joneys Green (Sun) : Cairnlea 1 3 Green Gully Cavaliers 2, Cairnlea 2 5 Point Cook FC 1, Altona East Phoenix Spring Hills 2 , Hoppers Crossing 2 Spring Hills 1 2, Melton 4 Bacchus Marsh 1

West SSF Boys 11 Joneys Yellow (Sun) : Brimbank City 3 St Albans Saints 1, Satellite City Utd Green Gully Cavaliers , Sydenham Park 4 Cairnlea 1, Werribee City 0 Point Cook FC 0, Barnstoneworth Utd Keilor Park

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Orange (Sun) : Green Gully Cavaliers Altona Magic , Melbourne Knights 4 Laverton Park 2, Hoppers Crossing 6 St Albans Saints 1, Werribee City 6 Sunshine Heights 1, Sunshine George Cross 2 Sydenham Park 1

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos Yellow (Sun): Green Gully Cavaliers 1 Altona City , Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Sunshine Heights , Sunshine George Cross 1 Williamstown 2, Brimbank Stallions 2 Barnstoneworth Utd 2, Keilor Park 1 Altona East Phoenix 4, Spring Hills Ballarat Academy of Soccer

West SSF Boys 11 Kangaroos/Joneys (Sun): Green Gully Cavaliers 1 Altona City 2 , Sunshine George Cross 5 Green Gully Cavaliers 2 1, Melbourne Knights Cairnlea , Altona City 1 2 Point Cook FC 0, Keilor Park Spring Hills , Williamstown Brimbank Stallions

Boys	18						Blue
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
North Caulfield	15	12	1	2	53	15	37
Melbourne Phoenix	15	10	1	4	35	22	31
GRFA	15	9	3	3	58	26	30
Whittlesea Zebras	14	8	3	3	36	26	27
Bentleigh Greens	14	6	2	6	24	29	20
Brunswick Zebras	14	5	1	8	30	31	16
Malvern City	16	5	1	10	29	50	16
Springvale White Eagles	16	4	1	11	26	46	13
Dandenong City	13	3	2	8	29	49	11
Fawkner	14	2	3	9	21	47	9

Boys	18						Central
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
South Melbourne	10	8	1	1	46	15	25
Sunshine George Cross	11	8	2	1	41	15	25
Whittlesea Ranges FC	10	5	1	4	28	15	16
Carlton Youth	12	5	3	4	38	32	14
Pascoe Vale	10	3	2	5	16	23	11
Heidelberg Stars	10	2	1	7	17	28	7
Port Melbourne	10	0	0	10	12	72	0

Boys	18						Eastern-North-East
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sherbrooke Rangers	13	13	0	0	78	11	39
Doncaster Rovers	14	11	1	2	51	17	34
Manningham	15	9	1	5	54	21	28
Glen Waverley	15	9	0	6	42	38	27
DOC Utd	15	5	0	10	30	37	15
Whitehorse Utd	14	4	0	10	24	68	12
Ashburton	14	2	2	10	27	68	8
Ringwood City	14	1	2	11	15	61	5

Boys	18						Purple
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
FC Bulleen Lions	14	12	2	0	38	16	38
South Melbourne	14	12	0	2	38	14	36
Sunshine George Cross	15	9	2	4	34	17	29
Richmond	15	8	1	6	33	16	25
Dandenong Thunder	14	4	3	7	22	24	15
Green Gully Cavaliers	14	4	2	8	24	25	14
Heidelberg Utd	14	4	4	6	21	30	13
Altona Magic	14	2	4	8	17	35	10
Northcote City	14	2	4	8	21	48	10
Oakleigh Cannons	14	1	4	9	15	38	7

Boys	18						South-East
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Oakleigh Cannons	15	11	3	1	61	19	36
Southern Suburbs	15	10	0	5	47	16	30
Riversdale	15	8	3	4	51	26	27
Bentleigh Greens	15	8	2	5	44	24	26
Brighton	15	7	4	4	50	22	25
FC Bulleen Lions	14	8	0	6	61	23	24
Eastern Lions	14	7	2	5	45	24	23
Manningham	15	4	2	9	34	43	14
East Bentleigh	15	3	0	12	26	88	9
Bayside Argonauts	15	0	0	15	5139	0	0

Boys	18						Southern
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Frankston Pines	15	11	2	2	62	14	35
Bayside Knights	15	10	2	3	75	26	32
South Eastern Piranhas	14	10	2	2	56	17	32
Casey Comets	15	9	2	4	39	17	29
Berwick City	15	8	1	6	47	25	25
Endeavour Utd	14	7	2	5	37	22	23
Springvale City	15	7	0	8	37	47	21
Brandon Park	15	3	1	11	28	59	10
Peninsula	15	3	0	12	36	75	9
Baxter	15	0	0	15	10125	0	0

28 Monday 9th August 2010



SEWFA DETAILS

Palace 2 d City 0
Goal scorers: Palace - S McCarthy 2

Inter Odds On For Minor Premiership

By Niki Cook

Round 16 of the Victorian Women's Premier League saw the relegation battle narrowed down to a two horse race, while Casey's slim finals hopes took a hefty blow. Box Hill, Heidelberg and Bendigo all saluted, with the former two still looking likely to remain in the top two spots until the end of the season.

Three first half goals secured another three points for Box Hill Inter at Wembley Park on Friday night, as the ladder leader saw off the challenge of eighth placed Preston Lions. Deanna Niceski scored twice, with Louisa Bisby also on target.

With the two teams having very different seasons, the result was no surprise, but it is one that has further ramifications than just Box Hill gaining three points.

Preston's ninth loss of the year guaranteed the survival of both Bendigo Vipers and South Melbourne, and means that either the Lions or Altona City will drop into Division 1.

Preston has a one point advantage over Altona, which plays Sandringham on Monday night, but the decisive match will be next Sunday, when the bottom two sides meet at BT Connor Reserve.

Box Hill Inter is odds on to take out the minor premiership again, given it holds a two point advantage over its closest rival, Heidelberg United.

At the very least, it is guaranteed a top two finish, and the double chance in the finals that goes with that feat.

Bendigo Vipers chalked up its fifth victory of the season, and severely dented Casey's chances of sneaking into the finals in the process, as it defeated its host 3-0 at Comets Stadium on Sunday.

The regional side took the lead in the twentieth minute, before adding two more in the opening ten minutes of the second half.

Catherine Wylie-O'Brien scored twice, the third time in the last four matches she has found the net, with Maika Ruyter-Hooley also on target.

Bendigo leapfrogs Casey and South as a result of the victory, and now lies fifth on the ladder. Casey can still mathematically make the finals, given it is five points behind Ashburton, but it must defeat that team next Sunday and beat Box Hill in the final round, while hoping that Ashburton also lose.

Heidelberg United triumphed in a high-scoring match at Ashburton Park on Sunday, to maintain second place on the ladder and edge closer to securing that double chance in the finals. Heidelberg grabbed the lead seven minutes into the match, before doubling its advantage shortly before the interval.

The visitor looked to be heading towards a comfortable victory, but Ash-



Bergers Melanie Camilleri and Julia Nicolaci celebrate scoring against Ashburton. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

burton came out fighting in the second half and pulled a goal back shortly after the break to blow the game open.

The second half was a thrilling contest, with United restoring its two-goal advantage five minutes after the home side's goal. Ashburton then cut the deficit once again six minutes later, but United hit back fifteen minutes from time to wrap up a 4-2 victory.

Melanie Camilleri scored twice, with Meghan Archer and Julia Nicolaci also on target for Heidelberg. Gulcan Koca was the only listed scorer for Ashburton.

The penultimate round of the 2010 WPL season sees all four matches kicking off at 1pm on Sunday afternoon, and with three of games being real blockbusters. Preston Lions and Altona City face off at BT Connor Reserve in the biggest match of the round, with the loser almost certain to be relegated to Division 1.

Another crucial match takes place at Comets Stadium, when Casey hosts Ashburton, with Casey needing a win to keep its finals' hopes alive, while Ashburton needs only a draw to wrap up fourth spot.

The minor premiership should also be decided next weekend, with Heidelberg United and Box Hill Inter clashing at Olympic Village, with the winner likely to take out the title.

After a week off South Melbourne returns to action against Sandringham at McIvor Reserve, with Sandy having to back up after a short break, as it will have played Altona on Monday night. Bendigo Vipers has the bye.



WPL weekend action from Heidelberg's 4-2 win over Ashburton. Ashburton defender Rosie Bureta gets the heads up on Melanie Camilleri. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

WPL RESULTS

Box Hill Inter 3
(D Niceski 2 L Bisby)
Preston Lions 0

Casey Comets 0
Bendigo Vipers 3
(M Ruyter-Hooley CS Wylie-O'Brien 2)

Ashburton 2 (G Koca)
Heidelberg Utd 4
(M Camilleri 2 M Archer JL Nicolaci)

Reserves:
Box Hill Inter 11 Preston Lions 0,
Casey Comets 3 BASL 0, Ashburton 5 Heidelberg Utd 3

WPL NEXT ROUND

Preston Lions v Altona City
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 1:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Box Hill Inter
Olympic Park (Village)
Sun 15 Aug KO 1:00PM

Casey Comets v Ashburton
Comets Stadium
Sun 15 Aug KO 1:00PM

South Melbourne v Sandringham
McIvor Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 1:00PM

Bye v Bendigo Vipers

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Inter	14	10	3	1	40	10	33
Heidelberg Utd	14	10	1	3	35	17	31
Sandringham	14	8	2	4	28	15	26
Ashburton	14	7	1	6	35	29	22
Bendigo Vipers	15	5	3	7	20	25	18
Casey Comets	14	5	2	7	20	26	17
South Melbourne	14	4	3	7	16	22	15
Preston Lions	14	2	3	9	13	38	9
Altona City	13	2	2	9	9	34	8

WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	14	11	2	1	60	12	35
Box Hill Inter	14	8	2	4	42	14	26
Casey Comets	13	8	2	3	27	10	26
South Melbourne	14	7	3	4	27	15	24
Heidelberg Utd	13	6	4	3	28	16	22
Sandringham	14	6	4	4	21	25	22
BASL	15	3	2	10	12	49	11
Altona City	13	1	2	10	12	35	5
Preston Lions	14	0	3	11	7	60	3

For more WPL news visit Emma Field's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>

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Lions Embark on a Great Escape

By Aritro Abedin

North Geelong faced off against cellar-dwellers Preston Lions on Friday night in a match that they probably would have banked on as a relatively trouble-free three points as they mounted a serious challenge for one of the two available promotion spots in this year's SL1.

However, no one at Elcho Park would have foreseen the shambles that was to follow for the home side as a rampant Lions outfit completed a 4-1 drubbing to take themselves off the bottom of the table.

The Lions were gifted an own goal on the way to the shock result, but much credit is due to livewire attacker Edin Ahmetovic who display class, poise and composure as he completed the stunning-hatrick that could keep his side in this division for another season.

The Lions now sit in 10th place, two points ahead of both Clifton Hill and Malvern City, and what once looked like a season almost certainly condemned to relegation appears to have been salvaged with four games left to play.

The legion of Preston fans who remember their club's halcyon days in the National Soccer League must be breathing a huge sigh of relief at the prospect of avoiding the ignominy of seeing their club battling it out in SL2 next season.

Langwarrin went into the game at Churchill Reserve having taken just one point from their previous two games, and Gus McLeod would have been desperate for a commanding away performance to get their season back on track.

However any such thoughts would have been dashed rather abruptly as St.Alban's unleashed a sumptuous passing display to destroy the visitors 4-0, a performance that coach Kruni Razov had no hesitation in describing as his side's best of the season. After showing some ominous signs early in the first half, the Saints put the game on ice after six minutes of devastation yielded 3 goals.

The build-up play that led to the first goal was somewhat reminiscent of Spain's efforts during the recently concluded World Cup. St.Albans stroked it around in the middle of the park with consummate ease, the ball passing through a dozen sets of feet without a Langwarrin player so much as getting a touch before a precise through ball found Martin Hana behind the Langwarrin defence.

The St.Albans flier displayed great composure in the one-on-one situation to calmly place the ball in the back of the net for a 27th minute finish that set the ball rolling for the romp that was to follow.

The Saints registered their second two minutes later when another breath-taking phase of passing play ended with Ivan Razov popping up at the back post to finish off a superb St.Albans move.

The game was then put to bed as Tomi Razov's 33rd minute free-kick sailed past the outstretched hand of the goal-keeper to leave St.Albans up 3-0 at half-time.

The second half saw more of the same as the Saints teased the visitors with plenty of slick passing until Marian Cvitkovic capped off his side's stunning performance with an equally worthy goal, firing in a sweetly struck cross-cum-shot that arrowed into the net from 35 metres out. 'It was probably the game of the year, just a super performance,' said a delighted Kruni Razov after the game.

However, he refused to be drawn into premature discussion of his team's promotion chances. 'In the back of our mind maybe we're thinking about it, but considering the season we've had, we're quite happy to take it one game at a time and we'll see how far off we are at the end of the season.'

Pascoe Vale continued their eight-game unbeaten run with a 0-0 draw against Whittlesea Zebras, but it was a result that



The ball has been dealt with. Now for the tricky part ... the landing. Zebras keeper Robert Santilli heads towards the ground as team-mate Simon Symeoy and Pascoe Vale's Luca Santilli wonder what hit them. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



St Albans' Ivo and Tomi Razov hunt in pairs against Langwarrin.

PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

they will probably rue as an opportunity missed. Although it was a largely incident-free encounter, Pascoe Vale had numerous chances to steal the game before the end, and George Kakaletsis men must be kicking themselves for failing to cash-in and get the three points that would have installed them in second place.

However credit is due to the Whittlesea goalkeeper, who pulled off a succession of high class saves in what must be one of the best performances of the season from any goalkeeper.

Kakaletsis was upbeat after the match, but acknowledged that his side had missed a golden opportunity. 'We've now gone eight weeks unbeaten so we're happy with that, but win would

have been really good would have put us in second position.' It has been a roller-coaster season for Pascoe Vale, with injuries cruelling the early part of their campaign.

However their run of form in the last two months has been unmatched by any other team during this campaign, and a picture is starting to emerge of a side that could very well have been competing for the championship had some luck gone their way. 'To be honest, I knew we had a really good squad, but we knew one of our defenders was leaving and going overseas, and another defender who's in our first XI every week had OP and missed a lot of games. We had a string of injuries and for a while there we were struggling to get men

on the park so it's a bit tough when its like that. Three guys pulled out going into this game and we had two changes from last week's team so we've really been getting challenged like that every week with different scenarios. But then again I'm sure every team's the same.' Pascoe Vale have another opportunity to break into the top two when they play the Saints at home next week.

In other results, Western Suburbs completed a comprehensive 4-2 win over Malvern City on Saturday.

The Bulleen vs Fawkner and Springvale White Eagles vs Clifton Hill contests were played after we went to press.

SL1 RESULTS

**North Geelong Warriors 1
Preston Lions 4**
(E Ahmetovic 3 Own Goal)

**Pascoe Vale 0
Whittlesea Zebras 0**

Malvern City 2
(P Madondo R Swingler)
Western Suburbs 4
(J Corbett J Kamasz 2 CP Woods)

St Albans Saints 4
(I Razov M Hana T Razov)
Langwarrin 0

Under 21s:
North Geelong Warriors 1
Preston Lions 1, Pascoe Vale 3 Whittlesea Zebras 0, Malvern City 9 Western Suburbs 0, St Albans Saints 0 Langwarrin 1

SL1 NEXT ROUND

Round 18
Fawkner Blues v Malvern City
CB Smith Reserve
Sat 14 Aug KO 3:00PM

FC Clifton Hill v FC Bulleen Lions
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Sat 14 Aug KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v Springvale White Eagles
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 14 Aug KO 3:00PM

Pascoe Vale v St Albans Saints
Hosken Reserve
Sat 14 Aug KO 3:00PM

Whittlesea Zebras v Preston Lions
Epping Soccer Stadium
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Nth Geelong Warriors
Ralph Reserve
Sun 15 Aug KO 3:00PM

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	16	10	2	4	31	18	32
Western Suburbs	17	7	7	3	30	20	28
Fawkner Blues	16	8	4	4	25	17	28
Pascoe Vale	17	8	4	5	25	19	28
FC Bulleen Lions	16	7	6	3	28	13	27
St Albans Saints	17	7	8	2	37	23	26
Langwarrin	17	8	2	7	27	32	26
North Geelong Warriors	17	7	4	6	24	16	25
Whittlesea Zebras	17	6	4	7	19	21	22
Preston Lions	17	3	3	11	19	38	12
FC Clifton Hill	16	3	1	12	20	33	10
Malvern City	17	3	1	13	11	46	10

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong Warriors	17	11	4	2	39	17	37
Langwarrin	17	11	2	4	34	24	35
Pascoe Vale	17	11	0	6	44	25	33
FC Bulleen Lions	16	10	3	3	35	20	33
Springvale White Eagles	16	7	4	5	35	24	25
Whittlesea Zebras	16	6	4	6	28	26	22
Western Suburbs	15	6	2	7	25	46	20
St Albans Saints	17	7	1	9	26	29	19
Preston Lions	17	4	4	9	30	35	16
Malvern City	17	4	3	10	28	39	15
FC Clifton Hill	15	3	4	8	19	32	13
Fawkner Blues	16	1	3	12	9	35	6

RESULTS & LADDERS

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 17

ROUND 18 FIXTURES

Seniors	STATE NORTH WEST 2							Reserves	Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 2							Reserves	State NW 2																					
Whittlesea Ranges 2 (N Lazarevski 2) Ballarat Red Devils 0, Altona City 1 (S Cudrig) Moreland City 3 (O Simsek K Simsek PA Dickie), Brunswick City Altona East Phoenix , Geelong Rangers 0 Banyule City 3 (O Ayache 2 S Barrett), Werribee City 1 (D Iuele) Sydenham Park 0, Williamstown 0 Port Melbourne 3 (R O'Hare 2 J Di Lorio)								Whittlesea Ranges 2 Ballarat Red Devils 1, Altona City 1 Moreland City 0, Brunswick City Altona East Phoenix , Geelong Rangers 3 Banyule City 0, Werribee City 1 Sydenham Park 1, Williamstown 0 Port Melbourne 2								Eastern Lions 4 (MW Nyadzayo 2 O Harel 2) Doncaster Rovers 1 (V Pirozzi), Dandenong City 2 (D Matkovic A Milicic) Casey Comets 4 (PM Presti F Murwira Own Goal 2), Southern Stars 4 (A Akdogan AF Mulcahy 2) Berwick City 0, Heatherton Utd 1 (A Sanad) Diamond Valley Utd 1 (A Savage), Knox City 5 (S Missaghi 2 J Flores JO Adedsun P Ajao) Morwell Pegasus 2 (MT Mcdemott J Baros), Southern Suburbs 2 (G Petrovic GR Walker) Frankston Pines 0								Eastern Lions 3 Doncaster Rovers 0, Dandenong City Casey Comets , Southern Stars 3 Berwick City 0, Heatherton Utd Diamond Valley Utd , Knox City 4 Morwell Pegasus 1, Southern Suburbs 0 Frankston Pines 2								Port Melbourne v Werribee City SS Anderson Reserve Fri 13 Aug KO 8:30PM Altona East Phoenix v Banyule City Paisley Park Soccer Complex Ballarat Red Devils v Williamstown Trekardo Park Brunswick City v Whittlesea Ranges Dunstan Reserve Moreland City v Geelong Rangers Campbell Reserve Sydenham Park v Altona City Keilor Lodge Reserve							
P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT								P W D L F A PT															
Port Melbourne								Whittlesea Ranges								Southern Stars								Diamond Valley Utd															
17 12 4 1 31 6 40								17 14 2 1 47 17 44								17 12 5 0 41 17 41								16 13 1 2 49 17 40															
Whittlesea Ranges								Port Melbourne								Diamond Valley Utd								Knox City															
17 9 7 1 32 15 34								17 11 3 3 29 17 36								17 11 3 3 43 21 36								17 13 0 4 48 21 39															
Werribee City								Altona City								Casey Comets								Southern Stars															
17 9 3 5 24 19 30								17 10 6 1 29 17 36								17 10 2 5 39 30 32								16 11 0 5 51 28 33															
Moreland City								Moreland City								Knox City								Eastern Lions															
17 8 2 7 30 30 26								15 10 2 3 31 23 32								17 7 5 5 30 27 26								17 10 1 6 33 21 31															
Brunswick City								Ballarat Red Devils								Dandenong City								Berwick City															
16 7 3 6 22 20 24								16 10 1 5 40 24 31								16 7 4 5 32 24 25								17 10 1 6 39 39 31															
Altona East Phoenix								Brunswick City								Eastern Lions								Casey Comets															
16 6 5 5 24 17 23								15 6 3 6 25 24 21								17 7 4 6 32 26 25								17 8 3 6 29 23 26															
Altona City								Werribee City								Morwell Pegasus								Dandenong City															
17 6 5 6 29 26 23								17 5 3 9 33 29 18								17 8 1 8 34 39 25								15 7 2 6 26 27 22															
Williamstown								Sydenham Park								Heatherton Utd								Doncaster Rovers															
17 6 4 7 15 19 22								17 4 3 10 24 37 15								16 6 5 5 26 25 23								17 7 0 10 37 36 21															
Ballarat Red Devils								Williamstown								Doncaster Rovers								Morwell Pegasus															
17 6 2 9 22 23 20								17 3 5 9 16 28 14								17 6 3 8 26 30 21								16 4 2 10 31 57 14															
Banyule City								Geelong Rangers								Frankston Pines								Heatherton Utd															
17 4 7 6 19 20 19								17 3 5 9 19 37 14								17 4 1 12 18 44 13								14 3 2 9 15 27 11															
Sydenham Park								Altona East Phoenix								Southern Suburbs								Frankston Pines															
17 2 4 11 8 26 10								16 3 0 13 16 34 9								17 3 3 11 24 36 12								17 3 1 13 20 48 10															
Geelong Rangers								Banyule City								Berwick City								Southern Suburbs															
17 2 2 13 8 43 8								17 2 3 12 13 35 9								17 1 2 14 10 36 5								17 2 1 14 18 52 7															

Seniors	STATE NORTH WEST 3						Reserves						Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3						Reserves						Morwell Pegasus v Berwick City Ronald Reserve																																						
Hume Utd 2 (E Koc 2) Essendon Utd 2 (A Imvriotis), Keilor Park 4 (B Malaga F Sirigiovanni N Miloshis 2) Sunbury Utd 0, La Trobe University Geelong , Maribymong Greens 1 (M Salkic) Cairnlea 4 (O Gurkan 2 E Garcia 2), Lalor 0 Melbourne University 1 (E Ameti), Yarraville Glory 0 Westgate 2 (K Otuo-Acheampong H Nunez)													Hume Utd 2 Essendon Utd 5, Keilor Park 1 (M Xerri) Sunbury Utd 1, La Trobe University Geelong , Maribymong Greens 2 Cairnlea 8, Lalor 2 Melbourne University 0, Yarraville Glory 3 Westgate 0													Croydon City Arrows 2 (D Latimer BJ Tronconi) Springvale City 1 (J Pekmezovic), Fitzroy City Waverley Wanderers , Nunawading City FC 0 Noble Park Utd 1 (N Salamandic), South Springvale 3 (S Catherine A Karanicolas 2) Brandon Park 1 (Z Younan), Mornington 2 (N Waite JR Paterson) Kingston City 3 (J Nilo A Akriopoulos 2), Peninsula Strikers 1 (J Schwellinger) North Caulfield 2 (A Ritz 2)													Croydon City Arrows 2 Springvale City 0, Fitzroy City Waverley Wanderers , Nunawading City FC 0 Noble Park Utd 4, South Springvale 4 Brandon Park 1, Mornington 3 Kingston City 0, Peninsula Strikers 4 North Caulfield 1													State NW 3 Geelong v Keilor Park Stead Park Reserve Fri 13 Aug KO 8:30PM Cairnlea v Melbourne University Rangers SC Cairnlea Park Lalor v Hume Utd RGC Cook Reserve Sunbury Utd v Maribymong Greens Langama Park Yarraville Glory v La Trobe University Mclvor Reserve Westgate v Essendon Utd Ardeer Reserve Sat 14 Aug KO 7:00PM												
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T																													
Sunbury Utd	17	10	2	5	39	29	32		Sunbury Utd	17	12	5	0	42	17	41		Noble Park Utd	17	12	3	2	37	20	39		Noble Park Utd	17	11	3	3	59	29	36																														
Keilor Park	17	9	5	3	27	19	32		Keilor Park	17	12	1	4	61	26	37		South Springvale	16	10	3	3	40	20	33		Croydon City Arrows	17	9	5	3	37	31	32																														
Geelong	16	9	2	5	37	27	29		La Trobe University	15	7	3	5	39	27	24		Kingston City	17	10	2	5	32	24	32		Nunawading City FC	17	9	4	4	49	33	31																														
Yarraville Glory	17	9	2	6	30	24	29		Yarraville Glory	17	8	3	6	45	36	24		Mornington	16	9	2	5	37	25	29		Mornington	16	8	5	3	39	22	29																														
Westgate	17	8	4	5	28	20	28		Cairnlea	16	7	3	6	44	41	24		North Caulfield	17	8	1	8	36	35	25		South Springvale	16	7	6	3	31	19	27																														
Cairnlea	16	8	1	7	39	24	25		Melbourne University	17	7	2	8	37	26	23		Fitzroy City	16	7	3	6	34	31	24		Fitzroy City	14	7	4	3	36	24	25																														
Hume Utd	17	7	4	6	23	22	25		Geelong	16	6	4	6	29	40	22		Croydon City Arrows	17	6	4	7	25	28	22		Peninsula Strikers	17	7	4	6	41	36	25																														
La Trobe University	15	6	3	6	28	28	21		Lalor	17	6	4	7	36	51	22		Nunawading City FC	17	6	4	7	15	19	22		Kingston City	16	7	3	6	45	25	24																														
Melbourne University	17	5	4	8	19	22	19		Essendon Utd	17	5	5	7	42	43	20		Peninsula Strikers	17	5	5	7	19	30	20		Springvale City	17	5	2	10	35	55	17																														
Lalor	17	2	7	8	17	31	13		Hume Utd	17	5	2	10	45	52	17		Waverley Wanderers	16	5	3	8	20	23	18		North Caulfield	16	3	1	12	28	48	10																														
Essendon Utd	17	2	6	9	24	45	12		Westgate	17	3	2	12	28	49	11		Brandon Park	17	2	2	13	20	43	8		Waverley Wanderers	16	2	3	11	20	50	9																														
Maribymong Greens	17	3	4	10	17	37	10		Maribymong Greens	17	2	6	9	30	70	9		Springvale City	17	2	4	11	20	37	7		Brandon Park	17	2	2	13	23	71	8																														

Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves	Seniors	PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Corio 7 (C Greechan M Marinovic 3 J Wade 2 I Biscan) Elwood City 1 (W Morgan), Melbourne City 0 Avondale Heights 2 (M Jancic A Nuzzaco), North Sunshine Eagles 4 (B Holod G Muslia A Bektash 2) South Yarra 2 (B McAleer AD Brown), Northern Falcons 1 (G Romero) FC Strathmore 2 (A Kranjinovic T Domjancic), Westvale 1 (S Khan) North City Lions 0, Whittlesea Utd Laverton Park			Corio 2 Elwood City 2, Melbourne City 0 Avondale Heights 6, North Sunshine Eagles 0 South Yarra 2, Northern Falcons 1 FC Strathmore 2, Westvale 5 North City Lions 2, Whittlesea Utd Laverton Park		
			Warragul Utd 1 (S Byers) Old Scotch 1 (S Shearer), Beaumaris 0 Doveton 2 (A Stephens J Ash), Boroondara Eagles 3 (M Rischitelli Own Goal) Old Camberwell Grammar 2 (G Goutzioulis), Monash University 1 (G Moka) Sandringham City 1 (MJ Putson), Monbulk 1 (S Bras) Mooroolbark 2 (B Adams 2), Old Melbourneians 2 Dandenong Sparrows 1 (T Ithier)		
			Warragul Utd 4 Old Scotch 2, Beaumaris 0 Doveton 2, Boroondara Eagles 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 2, Monash University 5 (A Burns C McPherson M Solovyev 3) Sandringham City 1, Monbulk 1 Mooroolbark 4, Old Melbourneians 8 Dandenong Sparrows 3		

Seniors		PROVI 2 NORTH WEST		Reserves		Seniors		PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST		Reserves	
Bell Park 2 (M Gstalter J Nelson) Hoppers Crossing 0, Collingwood City 3 (E Papageorgiou 2 S D'Amore) West Preston 0, Lalor Utd 2 (S Papadopoulos) Surf Coast 2 (G Honey 2), Melton 2 (PJ Mangion 2) Melbourne Tornado 3 (R Blazevic S Miocic), Moreland Utd 2 (D Salatiello) Epping City 2 (A Napolitano M Said), Plenty Valley Lions 0 Western Eagles 3 (M Kowalski K Hubiak R Chelchowski)		Bell Park 1 Hoppers Crossing 1, Collingwood City 2 West Preston 1, Lalor Utd 1 Surf Coast 1, Melton 3 Melbourne Tornado 1, Moreland Utd 2 Epping City 1, Plenty Valley Lions 1 Western Eagles 2				Skye Utd 1 (V Villela) Berwick Kings 0, Caulfield Cobras 0 Lyndale Utd 3 (M Voinea R Heco 2), Whitehorse Utd 3 (C Bacalis L Marrone K Tavrou) Riversdale 3 (J Adamo J Tracey 2), Old Carey 1 (R Stanner) Uni. of Melbourne 2 (NM Doherty AC Calthropp), Old Brighton Grammarians 0 Ashburton 2 (C Boyle G Moroni), Bayside Argonauts 0 Endeavour Utd 1 (GM Dos Santos)		Skye Utd 0 Berwick Kings 4, Caulfield Utd 2 Lyndale Utd 2, Whitehorse Utd 3 Riversdale 9, Old Carey 0 Uni. of Melbourne 1, Old Brighton Grammarians 1 Ashburton 4, Bayside Argonauts 2 Endeavour Utd 1			

Title twists & turns

By Adam Hussein

Albert Park FC 9 vs. 3 Fitzroy FC

The opening match of the evening saw Albert Park take on Fitzroy. Albert Park coming off a good win last week had hot title favourites Fitzroy in a do or die clash in their bid to survive relegation. Fitzroy were without 4 first team regulars but opened the scoring through Alex Hussein. Albert Park equalised only for Fitzroy to score again. The youthful Fitzroy debutant's just weren't strong enough for the physical Albert Park side. Albert Park went into the break 4-2 up after some fantastic work up forward by Verikakis & Filipovic. They ran out 9-3 winners with Fitzroy fill-in goalkeeper Shayan Orouji having a nightmare. Albert Park deserved winners and made it two wins in two weeks..

Pascoe Vale 17 vs. 2 FC Carlton

Ruthless champions Pascoe Vale put Carlton to the sword in this demolition that boosted Pascoe Vale's title contention & goal difference. With five goals to Simsek, five to Barbosa & four to Caro this red hot Pascoe Vale steam track is hunting down Metropolitan and Fitzroy above them. FC Carlton had new faces as they had in the previous 4 weeks but it was the same dismal result, a thrashing of horrific proportions. Evandro Da Silva the only shining light for Carlton scoring a cracker early on. Pascoe Vale are the in form side of the competition and don't look like losing a game. Carlton look destined for immediate relegation from the V-League.

Mickleham 2 vs. 8 Metropolitan

The yellow and black of Mickleham FC took on the blue and white of Metropolitan in a clash that was vital for both sides. Metro's little emperor Alija Redzepovic found some goal scoring form hitting a hatrick in what was initially a tight affair. Mickleham fight out 20 minutes of V-league Futsal before running out of huff and puff, they went into the break 4-2 down and didn't score a goal in the second half losing 8-2 in the end. Metro's class shone through, Alija's brother Dino scored a double and so did compatriot Ricardo Castro, the unsung hero of the side that sits comfortably in 2nd spot on the ladder 4

points off Fitzroy. Spijodic, Jeles and Ljuca all contributed with debutant goalkeeper Damir Salcin comfortable. Ryan Filipovic the only star for Mickleham and is fourth on the goal scorers charts.

Brimbank FC 9 vs. 4 Essendon

In what has been a huge fall from grace 2009 champions FC Essendon find them 11th on the ladder and seemed doomed to relegation. Brimbank aren't exactly walking on sunshine either and will need more of the same after securing a vital three points. Vadim Maestro Mazursky scored a classy seven goals as his side led 5-1 at half time and won 9-4 comfortably in the end. Kablar's star man may be the only thing that saves Brimbank from returning to the state league. Emir Ameti has contributed slightly & so has Munez in goal but that's about it for Brimbank. Alexander Stenavanovic is looking to improve on his record three golden boots by adding a fourth; he scored a double on the night and leads the goal scoring charts with seven rounds to go. Unfortunately their will be no trophies for his side this year who seem doomed to relegation playoffs against hungry state league sides.

Ashburton 8 vs. 3 FC Prahran

Ashburton were always going to do enough to survive, and with a squad that includes some of the finest V-League players it's no wonder they beat Prahran 8-3. Ahmed Azzam was back in town and scored a neat hat trick, Blackburn had a double and singles to Assaeda, Markelis & Chris Vithoulkas for the green machine. Avram had his standard double for Prahran and Muktar had a single but that was all that Prahran had to offer. They drafted in young guns Daniel Mogoai & Mohammed Ahmed to little affect as the experience and class of Ashburton shone through. None was happier then Victorian State Men's Coach Paul Vidic who was back in town as a keen observer. 8-3 a fair result in the end, FC Giantkillers (Prahran) have all the under dogs that threaten to undo their season. Ashburton have a strong run in aiming for a place higher up the ladder to avoid difficult opponents in the FOz cup.

Nth Melbourne 1 vs. 5 Hume FC

The first time these two sides met North won 6-1 comfortably and it



Marcus Barbosa Jr does a little dance for the lively Wednesday night crowd as he sets his eyes on a move to Brazil in a fortnights time.



FC Prahran's Ahmed Muktar sizes up the challenge ahead as Ahmed Azzam and Diego Asaeda two of Ashburton's stellar performers this season



FC Valencia and Young Socceroos star Theo Markelis has a chat to our very own The Stat Man discussing the recent World Cup warm up matches in Vietnam. Theo's brother George Markelis has been picked up by Ashburton's manager Paul Vidic in this seasons LEGEA V-LEAGUE premiership.

was a case of the tables turning on the Futsal Juggernauts as Hume steam-rolled home. Hume minus superstar recruit Simon Lammanda went into half time 1-0 up after a tense first half but steam rolled North in the second half winning 5-1. Resit Culculoglu starred with an amazing three goals. Sahin was back for Hume and deadly as ever, Amen Keddad would've been counting his lucky stars he had all his troops in good form as they disposed of third placed North. Milton Sakkos must be wondering what on Earth he has to do to get a grip on this trophy; with a side down to bare bones he fielded 09/10 Keeper of the year Rasoulzadeh, Rashidi, Jankovic, Cooper & Pollatti. Milton usually unrivalled for rallying underdogs and stealing victory he lost his cool and lost the points as the State League champs

romped home as victors and delted another blow to the title race.

Melbourne Futsal League Men's Training

Futsal Oz is calling on all players to come and trial for the Inner City FC side that will play in the MFL. Futsal Oz will be entering multiple sides with players from the LEGEA V-League and State League. Training commences next Friday 7:30pm at 407 Victoria Street Brunswick. The sides will be managed by Paul Vidic the FFV Victorian Mens Coach and will give players an excellent opportunity to show case their skills to the states leading man. For more details contact 1300 788 799

V-League										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt		
1 Fitzroy FC	15	12	1	2	94	67	27	37		
2 Metropolitan FC	15	10	3	2	129	87	42	33		
3 Pascoe Vale FC	15	10	1	4	110	68	42	31		
4 Nth Melbourne FC	15	9	1	5	79	58	21	28		
5 Hume FC	15	8	2	5	75	62	13	26		
6 Ashburton FC	15	8	0	7	96	86	10	24		
7 FC Prahran	15	6	2	7	70	77	-7	20		
8 Mickleham FC	15	6	1	8	79	86	-7	19		
9 Brimbank FC	15	4	3	8	81	86	-5	15		
10 Albert Park FC	15	4	1	10	72	87	-15	13		
11 FC Essendon	15	3	3	9	79	87	-8	12		
12 FC Carlton	15	1	0	14	55	168	-113	3		

Round 15 Results		
Aug 4		
•6:30 Albert Park FC v Fitzroy FC	9 - 3	
•7:15 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Carlton	17 - 2	
•8:00 Mickleham FC v Metropolitan FC	2 - 8	
•9:30 Ashburton FC v FC Prahran	8 - 3	
•10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Hume FC	1 - 5	

Round 16 Clashes		
Aug 11		
•6:30 FC Carlton v FC Prahran		
•7:15 Brimbank FC v Fitzroy FC		
•8:00 Albert Park FC v Metropolitan FC		
•8:45 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Essendon		
•9:30 Ashburton FC v Hume FC		
•10:15 Nth Melbourne FC v Mickleham FC		

V-League Top Scorers	
1.Alexander Stevanovic FCE	41 goals
2.Vadim Mazurskiy BFC	39 goals
3.Alija Redzepovic MFC	30 goals
4.Leigh Minopoulos FFC	28 goals
5.Ryan Filipovic MkFC	28 goals

SouvlakiHut State League Championship										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1 FC Melbourne	13	8	0	5	56	42	14	24		
2 FC Collingwood	11	7	0	4	76	43	33	21		
3 Doncaster FC	11	7	0	4	53	38	15	21		
4 Elsternwick FC	11	7	0	4	55	52	3	21		
5 Melbourne Uni FC	12	6	0	6	59	40	19	18		
6 CF Brunswick	12	6	0	6	58	65	-7	18		
7 FC Maribyrnong	12	5	0	7	39	67	-28	15		
8 FC Geelong	12	4	0	8	55	50	5	12		
9 FC Balwyn	12	3	0	9	45	99	-54	9		

Round 14 Results		
Aug 1		
•7:40 Elsternwick FC v FC Maribyrnong	7 - 1	
•8:20 FC Collingwood v FC Balwyn	5 - 6	
•9:00 Doncaster FC v FC Melbourne	3 - 2	
•9:40 CF Brunswick v Melbourne Uni FC	5 - 2	
•Bye FC Geelong v Bye		

Round 15 Clashes		
Aug 8		
•7:40 Doncaster FC v Melb Uni FC		
•TBA FC Geelong v FC Melbourne		
•9:00 FC Collingwood v CF Brunswick		
•9:40 Elsternwick FC v Balwyn FC		
•Bye Maribyrnong FC v Bye		

State Top Scorers	
1. Cameron Holmes FCC	24 goals
2. Duke Duva MUFC	19 goals
3. Ahmed Badawy FFC	17 goals
4. Dima Nichiferenco FCC	27 goals
5. Chris Gospel FCM	27 goals

PHOTOS BY
Franco Lucchetti,
Nick Chippas, Steve Austin



OAKLEIGH CANNONS



O

SOUTH MELBOURNE



1

Oakleigh Cannons
Griffin McMaster, Jamie Cumming, Stelios Drakos, Bonnell Obradovic, Ricky Diaco, Ashley Savanah (Martin Mason 89'), Yusuf Yusuf (Bill Damianos 38'), Michael Curcija, Aristidis Drakos (Jerry Karpeh 66'), Neven Antic, Scott Webster

South Melbourne
Peter Zois, Rhodri Payne, Steven O'Dor, Daniel Vasi-levski, Eddie Cetkin (James Stefanou 90'), Joe Keenan, Carl Recchia, Gianni De Nittis (Joseph Youssef 90'), Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernan-do De Moraes (Kyle Joryeff 75'), Marinos Gasparis (Scorer: De Moraes 30')

Man of the Match: Fernando De Moraes (South Mel-bourne)
Venue: Jack Edwards Re-serve
Date: Friday 6 August 2010
Crowd: 1,000

SOUTH KEEPS FINALS HOPES ALIVE

By PAUL MAVROUDIS,
ANDREW ONGKODJOJO
AND JOHN DIEGAN

South Melbourne FC has kept its slim finals chances alive with a 1-0 win away to Oakleigh Cannons on Friday night. In wet conditions, Fernando De Moraes' first half goal saw the visitors take all three points from Jack Edwards Reserve for the first time since 2005, and handed the out-of-form Cannons their seventh loss in eight matches.

South settled down quickly, and set up several chances in the opening minutes. Joe Keenan on the left and De Moraes on the right in particular were repeatedly beating their opponents one on one, and sent several crosses into the area. Gianni De Nittis had South's first guilt edge chance, when he ran on to a through ball by De Moraes and rounded the keeper but ended up being unable to keep the ball in play. Soon after, Keenan fired just wide from a free kick. Rama Tavsancioglu ran on to another through ball, this time by Marinos Gasparis, but Oakleigh goalkeeper Griffin McMaster was able to smother the ball. Further dead ball situations had McMaster stopping long range shots and being forced to punch or tip the ball to safety.

Eventually South's good work paid off in the 30th minute, when De Moraes, finding himself in metres of space on the right hand side after a through ball by defender Eddie Cetkin, slotted a low shot past McMaster to give South the lead. The goal gave De Moraes his 11th League goal for 2010 and put him into outright ninth place on South Melbourne's all-time leading League goal scorers list with 46 goals, having overtaken Kimon Taliadoros' 45 goal tally.

Oakleigh's first half attacks were mostly reliant on South's occasional midfield errors and on rapid counter attacks on the wings. For the most part South's defence was able to thwart the home side's advances without too much difficulty, with only Ricky Diaco's aerial prowess getting the ball through to

High flying action between finals aspirants Oakleigh Cannons and South Melbourne.
PHOTO:PETER KAKALIAS

Scott Webster clears the danger for the Cannons.
PHOTO:PETER KAKALIAS

Peter Zois. The home side's best chances in the first half came from ex-South winger Yusuf Yusuf, who sprayed his shot wide after his teammates had provided some neat build-up play. As the half wore on, a passage of play started by a Bill Damianos interception forced Zois to come off his line to clear the ball and with the ball bouncing around dangerously in the box, centre-half Steven O'Dor managed to clear it to safety from the goal line.

The second half saw more of the same attacking football from both teams, albeit with a much improved effort from the home side. Diaco looked lively again early in the second

half, while De Moraes failed to repeat his goal scoring effort of the first half by shooting across the face of goal and wide from a tight angle. At the other end, Zois was forced into action again by saving a shot resulting from a goalmouth scramble. The Cannons brought on dangerous but out-of-form striker Jerry Karpeh midway through the second half, but for the most part he was kept quiet by being double-teamed and forced away from goal. Despite the close attention by South's defenders, Karpeh was still able to create Oakleigh's best chance of the night when he latched on to a cross with his head, forcing Zois to dive spectacularly to his left

to tip the ball away to safety.

As Oakleigh were forced to press up the field, South turned their attention to absorbing the pressure, and hitting back on the counter. Numerous attempts were foiled by mistimed runs and the linesman's flagging of offside calls. The best opportunity for South in the second half came when Rhodri Payne ran through clear on goal, where he appeared to be taken down from behind in the 18 yard box - the referee though, waved play on. South though was able to hold on to its lead until the end, and in doing so was able to claim a deserved victory.

Oakleigh's Micheal Curcija tries to poke the ball home. PHOTO:PETER KAKALIAS

34

RICHMOND EAGLES



4

ALTONA MAGIC



2

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, D.Tsiaras (M.Eterovic 79'), J.Krncevic, D.Visevic (M.Catalano 72'), M.Ferrante, A.Kovacic, M.Bissinger, T.Milardovic, S.Topalovic, D.van 't Schip (M.Lujic 87').

Goals: Krnecvic 8' Topalovic 25' Milardovic 40' van 't Schip 70'

Yellow Card: Milardovic 32'

Red Cards: None

Altona Magic: T.Tomich, Kol.Delev (T.Stalevski 89'), D.Radojicic (J.Vasquez 83'), P.Sivevski, M.Theodore, G.Papadopoulos, P.Cergovski, J.Duvcevski (Koc.Delev 73'), J.Thornley, S.Bozinovski, S.Kovacevic.

Goals: Sivevski 5' Thornley 53'

Yellow Cards: Kovacevic 40' Cergovski 51'

Red Card: Papadopoulos 35'

Man of the Match: Davey van 't Schip (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Crowd: 300

Eagles eye Minor Premiership as Magic look destined for SL1

By Mark Boric

The penultimate round of the VPL season saw leaders Richmond hosting Altona Magic in a classic finals contenders versus relegation battlers match-up.

After coming from behind to snatch a 2-2 draw with South Melbourne the Eagles were well placed to secure a finals spot with a home win. A win over Heidelberg United and a draw with Melbourne Knights had renewed Magic's hopes of avoiding the drop, but they entered this game on the back of a 0-3 defeat at home to Hume City, during which they lost the vital Doug Mladenovic for the remainder of the season after a thirtieth minute injury. Also missing against Richmond was Goran Talevski, with Kole Delev and Slave Bozinovski back into the starting line-up.

The drama was to begin early in the match, with Altona awarded a penalty after just four minutes. The ball had been switched from right to left across the top of the penalty area, and as James Duvcevski latched onto it and was almost about to leave the box as he tried to round Mitch Bissinger he was brought down by a sliding challenge from the young Richmond defender. Pece Siveski stepped

up to the spot and slammed the ball into the top left corner of the net, but the drama mounted as the referee ordered a re-take. Siveski remained on the spot, and coolly converted his second attempt just as emphatically, this time the ball staying lower and striking the net off the inside of the left post.

Altona's joy was to be short-lived, as just four minutes later the Eagles were back on level terms. Davey van 't Schip had drifted left from the middle of the park, getting the ball and sending it out wider to Andrew Viola in some space. Viola swung a cross into the box which fell between Jesse Krnecvic, Daniel Visevic and a pair of Altona defenders. Krnecvic was quickest to react, getting the ball under control and turning to get a sight on goal before poking it beyond Tomich for the rapid equaliser.

In the tenth minute Visevic switch the ball out to van 't Schip on the left, who skipped past his marker and got down the line before getting in a cross which was cut out by Tomich with Krnecvic lurking just behind him. Two minutes later a free kick from thirty-five yards out on the right side from Visevic was held by Tomich on his line and the home side pressed for a goal to put them ahead. A shot from van 't Schip from distance eight minutes later also went straight to Tomich.

It was another free kick from Visevic in the twenty-fifth minute which would bring about a goal for Richmond. From out wider on the right he sent the ball to the far post where Steven Topalovic met it with a well timed run to slam it on the half-volley beyond Tomich for his second goal for the club.

Richmond were now in full flight, and should have had a third goal six minutes later. Michael Ferrante sent Krnecvic away on the right, his driven ball to the near post being flicked at goal by van 't Schip but rolling agonisingly just wide of the far post. Tom Milardovic was booked for a tackle on John Thornley when he was tracking back after a burst forward. Topalovic headed just wide after a corner.

In the thirty-fifth minute things got worse for Altona, when George Papadopoulos was shown a straight red card for a late tackle on Dimitri Tsiaras. Five minutes later Richmond were awarded a penalty when Krnecvic was brought down by Sime Kovacevic. Milardovic converted, and at half-time Richmond were enjoying a 3-1 lead.

Pece Cergovski was booked



Steve Topalovic embraces Davey van 't Schip.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

for dissent five minutes after play resumed, when a free kick was awarded as Krnecvic was brought down near the right corner flag. It was from corner at the other end that Magic were able to pull a goal back from two minutes later. Siveski's ball to the near post was headed back to him by Milardovic, and his next ball was driven back lower with John Thornley showing quick feet to turn the ball in for his eighth goal of the season.

Visevic tested Tomich with a shot from thirty yards after cutting in from the right which was destined for the top corner of the goal until being tipped over the crossbar. From the resulting series of corners the ball fell to Viola after a spill but he blasted a shot over the crossbar from twelve yards. Viola was in the thick of the action again in the sixty-second minute, cutting in from the left and going past three players before having his shot blocked as he broke into the box. Later it was Viola's cross which was hacked away from Krnecvic in the middle of goal and fell to Visevic on the right, who shot wide as Richmond continued to pile on the pressure.

A minute after that exchange Richmond found a fourth goal. After winning a clearance on the right the ball was sent to Topalovic who brought it forward, his run carrying on right through deep into the

penalty area and being finished with a pull back to van 't Schip who stroked the ball first time beyond Tomich.

The game remained open as both teams showed attacking intent. A free kick from thirty yards by Dejan Radojicic struck the wall, and with his follow up effort he shot wide of goal. Siveski hit another long range free kick straight at Stjepan Gal shortly after. With full-time approaching substitute Mate Eterovic chipped the ball over his head and beat his man, racing down the left and crossing to Krnecvic at the near post. Krnecvic killed the ball with his first touch and then laid it off to Milos Lujic, who had his shot blocked on the line, Ferrante also having a threatening shot blocked as he followed up the initial clearance. The final whistle shortly after signaled Richmond's twelfth win of the season, the 4-2 win keeping them on top of the table going into the final round.

While Richmond will look to take out top spot in a visit to Kingston Heath to meet Benleigh Greens next Sunday, Altona look doomed to relegation. Needing a few results to go their way beforehand, their fate may already be sealed by the time they face the sliding Oakleigh Cannons at Jack Edwards Reserve.



Davey van 't Schip puts the icing on the cake with Richmond's fourth goal.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



The scoreboard says it all, and last year's champs are staring square at relegation. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

DANDENONG THUNDER



1

SUNSHINE GEORGIES



1

Match Details:

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Wilford A., Osman , L., Bahnsen, N., Bulloch, S., Rex-hepi, S., Davidson, R., Ibraimi., I (Kousis, K. 64’), Starosa, B., Korcari, V. (Avdulai, A. 75’)

Scorer: Bulloch S. 50’

Sunshine Georgies:

John, M. Romein S,(Blackburn, J 57’), Richards, F., Shin ,L., Sweeney, C., Cameron, D., Bourakis, A., Cogger, B., Apostolakis, T.(Nabbout, A. 70’), Christodoulou, E., Devlin, B.

Scorer: Shin, L. 8’

Man of the match: Shin, L.

Leo Shines On Thunder Bog

By George Stogiannou

Finals chasing Dandenong Thunder and relegation threatened Sunshine Georgies fought out an entertaining 1-1 draw on a quagmire of a George Andrews pitch in their Rd 21 encounter on Saturday afternoon.

Such was the dire state of the pitch that the decision to go ahead with the match wasn’t made until 15 minutes before scheduled kickoff.

Thunder began with two strikers instead of the usual single striker option favoured by coach Stuart Munro in the second half of the season. The Georgies, began with Tex Apostolikas leading the line with Fidel Richards and Evan Chrostodoulou pushing on in support. But it was diminutive midfielder Leo Shin who scored an excellent individual goal in the 8th minute to give the visitors an ideal start. Shin drifted in from the right flank with the ball at his feet, across the face of the box into space on the left, before firing a left foot shot past Thunder keeper Stuart Webster into the net.

The conditions then worked in the visitor’s favour when a dangerous Thunder cross from the left goal line seemed headed to the feet of Thunder’s Ben Starosa, but instead got bogged en route allowing Georgies keeper Martin Johns to retrieve the ball.

Both teams had good opportunities to strike on goal when first Thunder’s Scott Bulloch chipped over the bar and then former Thunder player Andrew Bourakis crashed his first time shot wide of the target with just the keeper to beat.

The home team began to impose itself on the game in the latter stages of the half with Ryan Davidson’s goal bound shot deflected wide by his own striker Jamie Reed, who was playing his last match for the club before returning home to Wales.

Thunder continued pressing forward

after the break and found their reward in the 50th minute when a Reed dummy allowed Bulloch time to gather a pass across the box and pick his spot before firing into the net past John.

A minute later Bourakis hit the top of the cross bar with a looping shot for the Georgies, whilst at the other end Thunder skipper Veton Korcari had a penalty appeal turned down when he fell under a Georgies challenge in the box.

Georgies sub striker Jamie Blackburn had a one on one opportunity on goal in the 73rd but was foiled by Thunder keeper Webster.

Thunder looked the more likely to score in the closing 15 minutes, as Reed’s shot on the turn produced a good save from John. The Georgies looked more intent on holding on to their point rather than searching for a winner. The final result wasn’t what either side wanted in the circumstances but both coaches agreed it was what they deserved.

Georgies fill-in coach Takis Svigos deputising for regular coach Theo Constantinou (suffering with a stomach bug) commented afterwards, “ I was happy with the result

.. I think it was a fair result. In the second half Dandenong played better but we had chances to kill the game in the first half.”

Dandenong coach Stuart Munro commented after the match, “ I think 1-1 is a fair result for both teams on what was a poor pitch. We’ve got to be a lot hungrier than that if we want to try and make finals football. That’s what I said to the players. Certainly the season is not over by a long long way with two more games, I want to win. I want to win them badly. And if it’s good enough to get to the finals, so be it. If not, I still want to win them, We’ll see what happens.”

In next week’s final round of the season, Dandenong host Heidelberg United on Saturday afternoon whilst Sunshine Georgies play South Melbourne.



Leo Shin scored an excellent individual goal to put the Georgies in front. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Players battle it out on what was a quagmire at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Thunder’s Scott Bulloch levels the scores. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Match Details:

HUME CITY: 1. Lupce ACEVSKI, 3. Fabio DILIZIA, 6. Serdar PIR, 7. Isyan ERDOGAN, 8. Alfonso OPAZO, 9. Turhan SUMBUL (33. Burak OZ-DEMIR 80'), 10. Richard CARDOZO, 11. Andy VLAHOS, 19. Dusko DELIC (12. Ross THOMPSON 70'), 20. Michael BOSEVSKI (14. Brendan BENI 90'), 22. Phillip RICCOBENE.

Subs not used: 2. Mehmet KARAKILIC, 13. Marijo ROZA.

Yellow Cards: Nil.
Red Cards: Nil.
Goals: Nil.

BENTLEIGH GREENS: 1. Peter GAVALAS, 2. George STAVRIDIS, 4. Craig SMART, 5. Sam DE VITO, 6. Con ANTHOPOULOS, 9. Damir LOKVANCIC, 10. Alex ROJAS, 16. Vasilios NATSIOLAS (43. Billy LIOLIOS), 18. Johnny SAPAZOVSKI, 23. Anthony SLEMIOIS, 27. Christopher SANITA. Subs not used: 20. Declan KEOGH, 21. Clifford HENRY.

Yellow Cards: Nil.
Red Cards: Nil.
Goals: Nil.

Draw Helps Neither Hume or Greens

By Osman Kose

It was a very windy day at the Broadmeadows Valley Park as the Bentleigh Greens made the trip to face second-placed Hume City. It was high stakes for both teams, as Hume City were out to claim top spot heading into the finals, whilst the Bentleigh Greens are battling relegation at the bottom of the table.

The wind had a massive influence on the game as both teams found it difficult to settle and create chances.

In the opening minutes Hume City were playing fast-paced football.

Turhan Sumbul had the first chance to score a goal for the home team, but he was unable to capitalise, as his shot went straight at the Bentleigh goalkeeper, Peter Gavalas.

Once the defenders from both sides got a feel of how the wind would affect the game and speed of the ball, it was hard for of them to be broken down.

The entire first half saw mistakes, scrambles and passes going astray, which left it level going into the break at 0-0.

After the break, it became a battle in the midfield. Craig Smart and Alex Rojas were making attempts to put their team on the front foot. Meanwhile, Hume City was using

the tough tackling of Isyan Erdogan to their benefit as he became very hard to beat.

Sumbul also looked very enthused for the home side in the opening minutes of the second half as he was able to beat several Bentleigh Greens defenders with his power and speed, but was unable to capitalise with his distribution.

The 70th minute saw Sam De Vito find some space inside the box for the Bentleigh Greens. His shot was low and too weak to trouble the captain of the day for Hume City, Lupce Acevski. It was the first real accurate attempt on goal for the Bentleigh Greens.

The home side realised mid-way through the second half that changes needed to be made. Ross Thompson was brought on for midfielder Dusko Delic. Thompson's affect was immediate as his cross saw defender Fabio Dilizia metres out from goal, only to header just wide. This should have definitely been a goal for Hume City.

Hume made another change on the 80th minute by bringing on young striker Burak Ozdemir for Turhan Sumbul, as injured Vasilios Natsioulas was replaced by Billy Liolios for the Bentleigh Greens.

In the 83rd minute, a cross found Bentleigh's Damir Lokvancic who controlled and brought the ball down brilliantly. His shot was well hit but was also phenomenally saved by Acevski. A definite



Bentleigh's Damir Lokvancic and Hum's Dusko Delic go head to head- PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Phil Riccobenem(Hume) goes to great lengths to stop Chris Sanita (Bentleigh) PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

goal was kept out by the veteran in goals for Hume.

The chances were few and far between in the closing minutes. The closest was from Richard Cardozo's corner which almost went in at the back post until Peter Gavalas got a fist to the ball and saw it out for another corner.

A late scramble inside the 18 yard box for Hume City in the dying minutes of the game was once again cleared by Bentleigh in the nick of time, only to come straight back into the box but shot wide by substitute Ozdemir.

The referee called it a day after four minutes of stoppage time, leaving the scores level at 0-0.

The outcome left Hume City in second, whilst the Bentleigh Greens have left it late to get out of the relegation spot, currently down by one point.

Bentleigh Greens will host Northcote City at the Veneto Social Club on Wednesday for their Round 16 catch up game which could be the life line that they were looking for to stay in the Alanic Victorian Premier League.

The final round of the home and away season will see Bentleigh Greens hosting first-placed Richmond at Kingston Health Soccer Complex, and Hume City will travel to John Cain Memorial Park to face Northcote City.

KEV'S KING OF THE TOWN, SON!

By Andrew Fisher

An inspired hat-trick from Melbourne Knights striker Kevin Townson, has secured a vital 4-2 victory over Northcote City at Knights stadium on Sunday afternoon, securing the Knights safety from the threat of relegation in the process.

It was an emotionally charged match, with high stakes on the table for the home side, and the team was led out by captain and club legend Danny Tiatto in his final game wearing the Red, White and Blue in front of an adoring crowd at Knights Stadium.

An early corner to the Knights saw Northcote keeper Chris Petropoulos fumble his catch and drop the ball right to the feet of Tomislav Skara, whose effort on goal was cleared off the line.

Northcote City are this season's leading goal scorers, with big forward Trent Rixon leading the way, the home side payed special attention to the striker allowing him little room to move, and closing him down at every opportunity. This allowed Northcote's other attacking players more freedom, with James Kalifatidis and Bradley Norton making good runs down the wing and into the Knights' penalty area, but failing to deliver the final ball to create the opportunity for Rixon to finish.

In the 16th minute, Kevin Townson thought he had opened the scoring, only to be denied by the linesman flag, as the Knights lifted the tempo.

A ten minute spell of dominance from the home side mid-way through the first half broke the game wide open. A telling cross from Jean Claude Dubios floated perfectly for Townson to hit on the half volley and past a stranded Petropoulos, then just two minutes later, another Dubios cross was only half cleared by the Northcote defence, as Magdic unleashed a shot from outside the area that was to hot for Petropoulos to handle, and could only parry the ball directly into the path of Townson to nod home and send the home support into raptures.

It could have got even better for the Knights just five minutes later, as Ben Surey released Laim Cannell, who unleashed a thunderous shot past a hapless Petropoulos, only to see his effort cannon off the cross bar.

Northcote got themselves back into the match late in the half, with the Knights defenders focused on Rixon during a corner, James Kalifatidis found himself unmarked to head home and half the deficit to give the visitors a chance in the second half.

The Knights all but sealed the result in the 57th minute as Cannell set up Kevin Townson for his hat-trick, to the delight of the home crowd, and to Townson who was booked for his overzealous celebration.

In the 70th minute, the Knights sealed the game, with Townson this time turning provider for Adrian Zahra to net his second goal in two matches.

Coach Ivan Duzel satisfied with the game, decided to empty the Knights bench with the largest applause coming for Danny Tiatto who was forced off with a groin injury.

Mark McGough attempt for goal of the season in the 88th minute, saw his long range half volley smash off the cross bar.

A late red card to Ante Loncaric was the only blemish on a good day for the home side, as the keeper brought down Kalifatidis in the penalty area, though it did look accidental, a penalty was the correct call. Bradley Norton slotted home past Ryan Filipovic who drew the short straw to step into goals.

The final whistle also brought to the end of a stellar career of Danny Tiatto, who announced his immediate retirement, and being carried off to a standing ovation.

Next week is the final round of the Alanic Premier League, as the Knights' make the short trip to Green Gully, whilst Northcote city have a catch up game against Benteleigh mid week, before taking on Hume City at home on Sunday.



Kevin Townson grabs his first goal of the afternoon. PHOTO: MKFC



Kevin Townson completes his hat-trick.. PHOTO: MKFC



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Knights players chair off Danny Tiatto after he announced his retirement from the game. PHOTO: MKFC

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